

**Nodwick**

**Web Series  
(2003-2005)**

# Nodwick

I'M BEAT!  
THANKS TO THE STATUE  
OF LIMITATIONS, I DID THE WORK  
OF AN ARMY OF SERFS IN A  
SINGLE AFTERNOON.

I MANAGED TO  
DIG A WELL, DELIVER TWO  
TONS OF MERCHANDISE TO SEVERAL  
BAKE SALES, REBUILD ARTAX'S LAB,  
LANDSCAPE THE FRONT YARD, AND  
REEROOF THE HOUSE.

I WISH  
THEY'D GET  
TIRED OF USING  
THAT THING.



IT'S TAKING TOO  
LONG FOR MY EMPLOYERS  
TO GET BORED WITH USING  
THIS STATUE ON ME.

sputter!  
cough!

OKAY, IT'S  
TAKING TOO LONG  
FOR ME TO FINISH MY  
HENCHMAN SERVICE  
CONTRACT.

whimper!

WHAT? ARE  
YOU TELLING ME I'LL  
SOONER SEE PIFFANY AND  
YEAGAR PUTTING  
TOGETHER A CIRCUS ACT  
OR SOMETHING?

I DUNNO. DOESN'T THE  
SELTZER SEEM TOO CLICHE?

MAYBE,  
BUT THE KIDDIES  
LOVE IT.



# Nodwick

YOU SAY IT  
FAILED TO WORK TWICE?  
WHAT DID YOU ASK IT  
TO DO?

UM, I FORGET. SO  
ANYWAY, I WAS WONDERING IF IT  
WAS BROKEN, PERHAPS?

NOT YET, BUT IT  
CAN'T TAKE ANOTHER CAUSALITY IMPASSE  
LIKE THAT AGAIN.

A CAUSALITY  
IMPASSE?

I DID A LITTLE RESEARCH AND FOUND THEY'RE  
DANGEROUS TO OUR LITTLE STATUE.

CAUSALITY IMPASSES  
ARE THINGS THAT, FOR ONE  
REASON OR ANOTHER, CAN NEVER  
HAPPEN IN A STABLE UNIVERSE.  
YOU JUST HAPPENED TO HIT ON  
TWO OF THEM IN  
A ROW.

AH.

JUST SO LONG AS WE  
DON'T FIND ANOTHER ONE, THE  
STATUE SHOULD BE OKAY. WHERE IS  
IT NOW, BY THE WAY?

I THINK  
PIFFANY HAS IT THIS  
AFTERNOON.

MEANWHILE, ACROSS TOWN.

SO WAITING FOR THE FANG  
AND FLAGON TO CLOSE DOWN ONCE A  
WEEK IS TOO MUCH TO ASK, TOO? HOW  
ABOUT ONCE A MONTH?

CAN WE AT LEAST SHORTEN  
HOW LONG IT WILL TAKE FOR THEM TO START  
SERVING FOOD THAT DOESN'T GIVE YOU THE  
KICKY-TUMMY TWO-STEP?

cough! hach!  
shudder!  
whine!

FANG &  
FLAGON









# Nodwick

PIFFANY!  
WHERE'S THE  
STATUE?

RIGHT HERE.  
IT DOESN'T SOUND  
ALL THAT HEALTHY.  
WHAT HAVE WE BEEN  
FEEDING IT?

cough!  
cough!

IT HIT ANOTHER  
CAUSALITY IMPASSE!  
THIS IS VERY BAD...

WHAT?  
WHAT'S GOIN'  
ON?

THE STATUE'S  
BROKEN.

THIS COULD  
AFFECT MORE THAN JUST  
THE STATUE. THIS THING IS  
CONNECTED TO SPACE-TIME  
ITSELF! UNLESS IT STABILIZES,  
TIME ITSELF COULD  
BE TORN APART!  
WE SHOULD—

YOU KNOW, THIS  
"READING" STUFF IS A LOT  
MORE EXCITING...

UM, WASN'T I ENJOYING SOME HEAVY  
CARDUSING A FEW SECONDS AGO?

I THINK  
YOU MEAN A FEW  
YEARS FROM  
NOW.

OH, FIDDLY-  
FIGS. WHAT ARE WE  
GOING TO DO?

I GUESS  
WE HAVE TO  
HUNT TO FIND  
OUT WHAT  
HAPPENS.

K  
A  
W  
A  
R  
P!



# Nodwick



OH, DEAR,  
IT LOOKS  
LIKE HISTORY  
HAS COME  
UNGLUED!

I'M  
GOING  
TO BE TIME-  
SICK.

I THINK  
THE STATUE IS  
GOING TO FRACTURE  
ALL OF REALITY  
UNLESS WE CAN  
STOP IT!

SO HOW  
DO WE DO  
THAT?



IF WE  
COULD GET  
BACK TO MY  
LIBRARY, I  
MIGHT BE ABLE  
TO FIND  
SOMETHING...

GOOD LUCK. I  
JUST SAW IT WHIZ PAST  
ABOUT EIGHT MINUTES  
FROM YESTERDAY.

WHAT  
IF WE FOUND  
SOMEONE  
WHO KNEW  
ALL ABOUT  
IT?

THAT'S A  
GOOD IDEA, BUT  
WHERE WOULD WE  
FIND SOMEONE  
LIKE THAT?



IF WE'RE LUCKY, I  
SHOULD BE ABLE TO  
REACH OUT AND...



HI, THERE.  
REMEMBER US?  
I DON'T SUPPOSE  
YOU HAVE THE  
TROUBLESHOOTING  
GUIDE FOR THE  
STATUE OF  
LIMITATIONS  
HANDY,  
DO YOU?

MY! WHEN  
YOU PEOPLE SET  
OUT TO COMPLETELY  
WRECK THINGS, YOU  
DON'T GO AT IT  
HALFHEARTEDLY,  
DO YOU?

HEY, IF YOU'RE GOING TO BE  
INSULTING, YOU CAN GO FIND YOUR OWN BUBBLE OF  
STABILITY IN A MAELSTROM OF TEMPORAL CHAOS.  
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.



# Nodwick





# Nodwick

WELL, WELL  
WE HAVE MADE A  
MESS OF THINGS,  
HAVEN'T WE?

ALL I WANTED  
WAS WEALTH, GOOD  
TIMES, AND A STRONG ALE  
BUZZ MOST OF THE  
TIME. WAS THAT SO  
WRONG?

YES.

SO WHAT  
DO WE DO?

WE HAVE TO  
RE-WEAVE THE TAPESTRY  
OF THE UNIVERSE.

IS THAT  
ANYTHING LIKE  
LATCH-HOOK? I  
LOVE THOSE!

OUR HEROES ARE SHOWN THE WEAVE OF REALITY.

AS YOU CAN SEE, IT'S  
GOTTEN A LITTLE OFF ITS PATTERN  
TOWARDS THE END, HERE.

THIS IS ALL  
MY FAULT.

I AGREE  
WHOLEHEARTEDLY.  
BLAME HIM.

I THOUGHT  
I COULD DESTROY THE  
STATUE OF LIMITATIONS. I  
HELPED TO UNDO THE  
WORLD INSTEAD.

QUITE RIGHT.  
SHAME ON THIS  
GUY!

IS HE ALWAYS  
THIS BIG A JERK?

ONLY  
WHEN HE'S  
AWAKE, OTHERWISE,  
HE JUST SMELLS  
FUNNY.

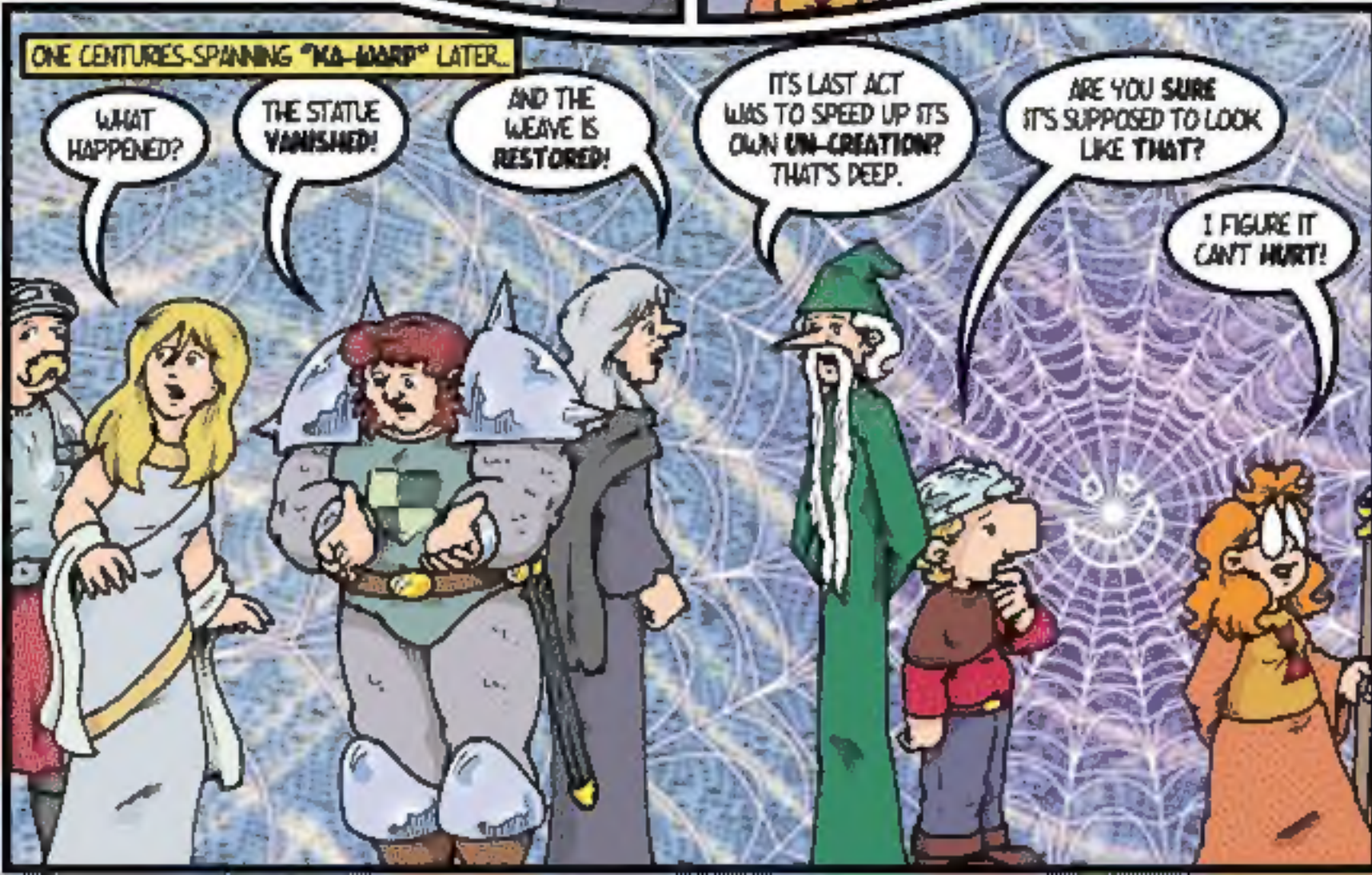


# Nodwick

WE KNOW WHOSE FAULT IT IS, AND FRANKLY, WE DON'T CARE.

WHAT WE DO NEED IS HELP PUTTING EVERYTHING BACK THE WAY IT SHOULD BE.

WE'RE ONLY THREE PEOPLE, AND WE'RE GOING TO NEED MORE HANDS TO HOLD THE STRANDS OF DESTINY TOGETHER WHILE WE UNTANGLE AND RE-WEAVE IT ALL.





# Noodwick

THERE YOU GO.  
BACK TO YOUR OWN PLACE  
IN THE COSMOS.

THANK YOU, KIND  
LADIES. MY QUEST TO DESTROY THE STATUE  
IS COMPLETE.



AND NOW  
WHAT WILL YOU DO WITH  
YOUR LIFE?

I SUPPOSE THAT'S  
FOR THE FATES TO DECIDE.  
FAREWELL, ALL!

AS FOR YOU  
FOUR, WE'RE OVERLOOKING  
OUR STANDARD POLICY OF WIPING  
THE MEMORIES YOU HAVE OF  
EVENTS THAT NEVER  
HAPPENED.

WE HOPE  
YOU MIGHT ACTUALLY  
LEARN SOMETHING  
THIS TIME.

"THIS  
TIME?"

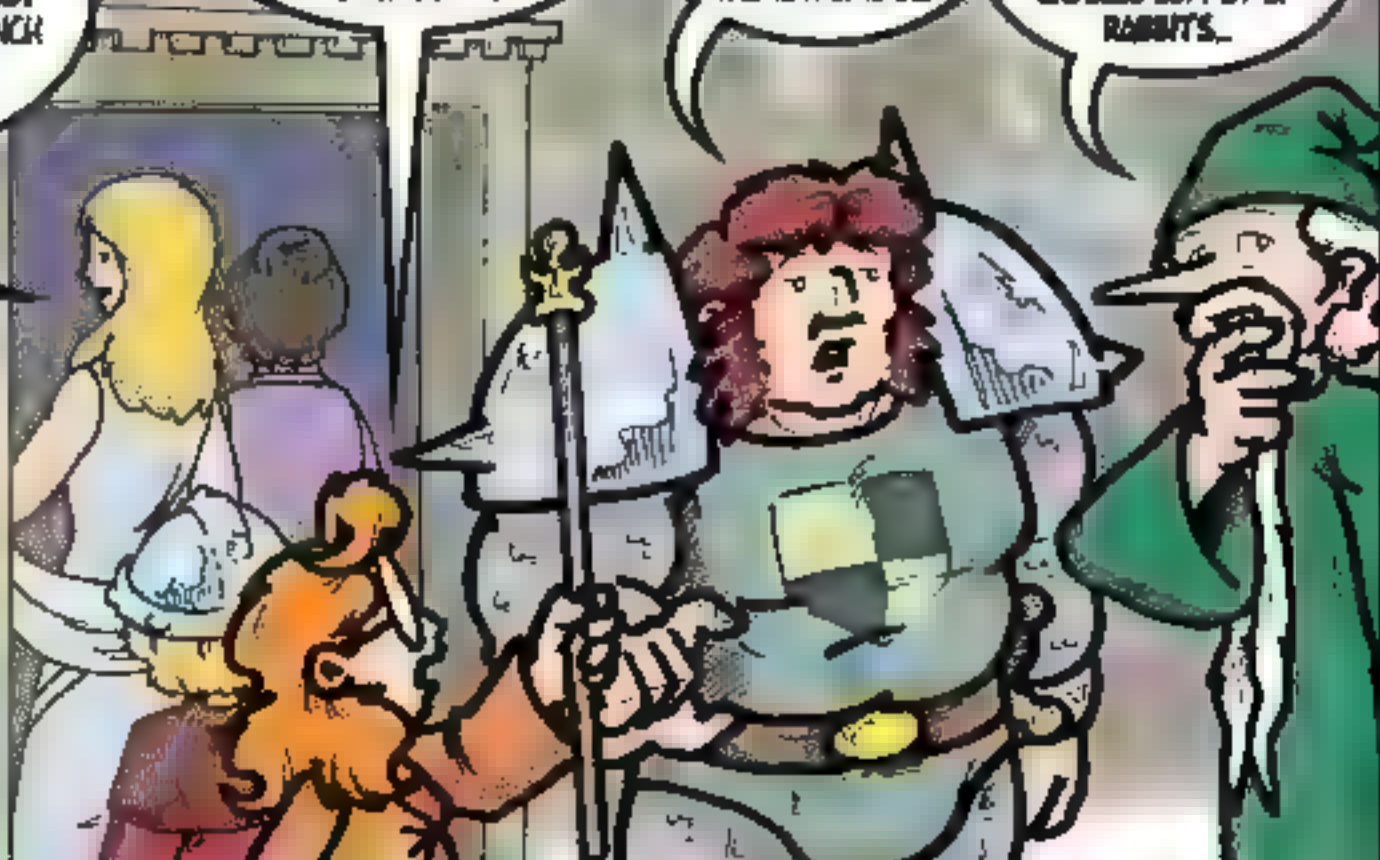


OH, COME ON.  
YOU WORK WITH THESE  
PEOPLE. SURELY YOU DON'T  
THINK THIS IS THE FIRST  
TIME YOUR MERRY BUNCH  
HAS CAUGHT OUR  
ATTENTION?

SHAME ON  
YOU ALL FOR ALMOST  
WRECKING THE UNIVERSE  
EVEN THOUGH WE DON'T  
REMEMBER IT!

I THINK  
WE MIGHT WANT  
TO TONE DOWN OUR  
QUESTS FOR MAGIC  
ITEMS A SMIDGE.

I'VE HEARD  
TELL OF A SILK  
HAT THAT PRODUCES AN  
ENDLESS SUPPLY OF  
RABBITS...





# Nodwick

HELLO, EVERYONE!  
TODAY, WE'RE GOING TO LEARN  
HOW TO MAKE A SPIFFY SCENTED  
HOLIDAY ORNAMENT FROM A  
PINECONE AND SOME  
KITCHEN SPICES.

WON'T  
THAT BE  
FUN? GET YOUR  
PARENTS TO  
HELP YOU AND  
MAKE A HAPPY-  
NICE YULETIDE  
MEMORY!

FIRST, YOU NEED THE  
MATERIALS: GINGER,  
CINNAMON, NUTMEG, A  
PAINTBRUSH, A HALF-GLUE  
HALF-WATER MIXTURE, AND  
SOME PINECONES!



IF YOUR PINECONES ARE  
FROM OUTSIDE, WASH THEM  
OFF AND THEN BAKE THEM ON AN  
OLD COOKIE SHEET AT ABOUT TWO  
HUNDRED DEGREES UNTIL THE  
PINECONES OPEN. THE SAP WILL MELT,  
TOO, MAKING  
THEM ALL  
SHINY!



MIX YOUR SPICES  
TOGETHER IN A BOWL WITH  
A FORK. IF YOU WANT TO  
ADD A LITTLE MORE BAZZLE,  
MIX IN SOME GLITTER.  
BE CAREFUL NOT  
TO SNEEZE!



AFTER  
LETTING THE  
PINECONES COOL  
AND DRY OUT,  
BRUSH THE GLUE  
AND WATER ON  
THEM.



AND ROLL  
THEM IN THE SPICES!  
BE SURE TO COVER  
ALL THE GLUEY  
PARTS.



THEN, YOU CAN  
TIE A LITTLE RIBBON TO  
THEM AND LET THEM HANG  
SOMEWHERE TO DRY.



ISN'T THAT KEENEY-BEANEY? YOU  
CAN GIVE THESE AS GIFTS, USE THEM IN BASKETS,  
OR EVEN MAKE A WHOLE WREATH OUT OF  
YUMMY-SMELLING PINECONES! EVERYONE YOU  
GIVE THEM TO WILL NO DOUBT BE FILLED WITH  
WARMTH AND HOLIDAY CHEER!

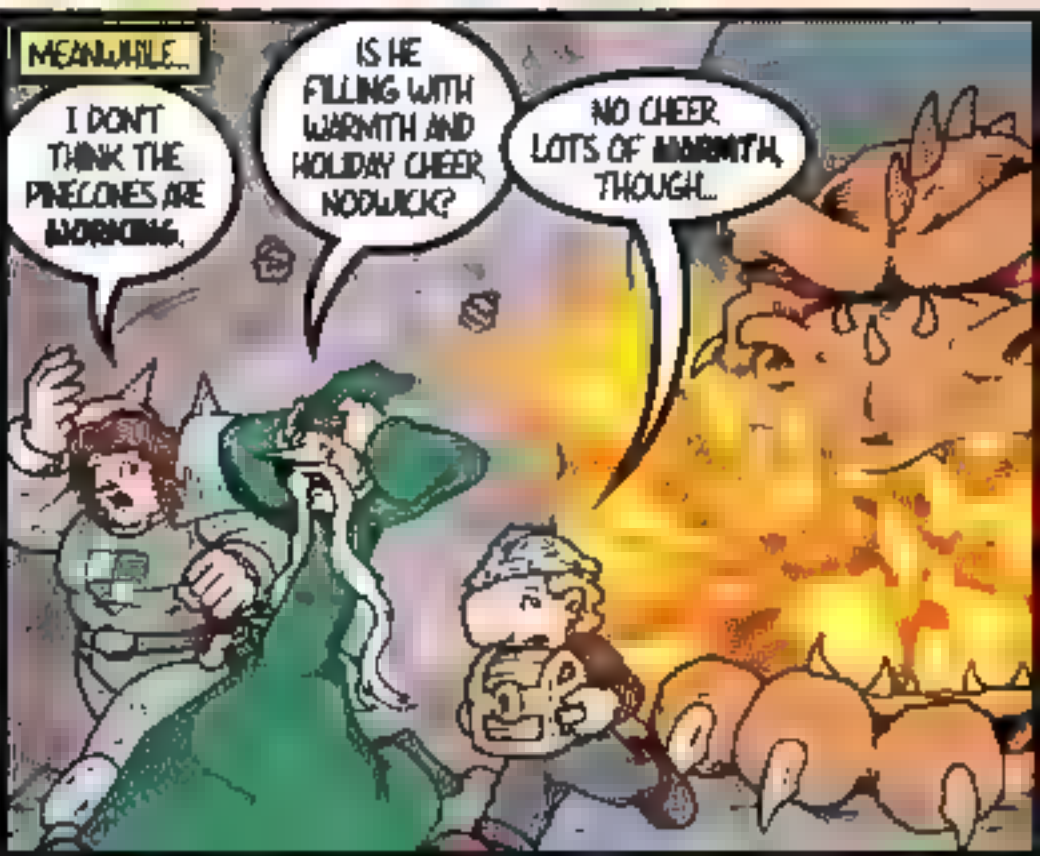


MEANWHILE...

I DON'T  
THINK THE  
PINECONES ARE  
WORKING.

IS HE  
FILLING WITH  
WARMTH AND  
HOLIDAY CHEER  
NODWICK?

NO CHEER  
LOTS OF WARMTH,  
THOUGH.





# Nodwick

HOLD AND STAND FAST! ANSWER  
MY RIDDLE AND YOU MAY PASS!

"WHEN SET LOOSE I FLY AWAY,  
NEVER SO CURSED AS WHEN I GO ASTRAY."  
WHAT AM I?

LOOK, WE ADMIT WE AREN'T  
THE BRIGHTEST PEOPLE IN THE WORLD,  
AND WE'D JUST LIKE TO MAKE IT DOWN  
TO LEVEL SEVEN BEFORE LUNCH. SO  
HOW ABOUT TWO HUNDRED GOLD TO  
LET US SLIDE THIS ONE TIME. WE WON'T  
TELL ANYONE IF YOU DON'T.

THREE HUNDRED.

TWO-FIFTY.

TWO SEVENTY-  
FIVE, AND THROW IN THE  
SWISS CAKE ROLLS I SMELL  
IN THE HENCHMAN'S SACK  
LUNCH.

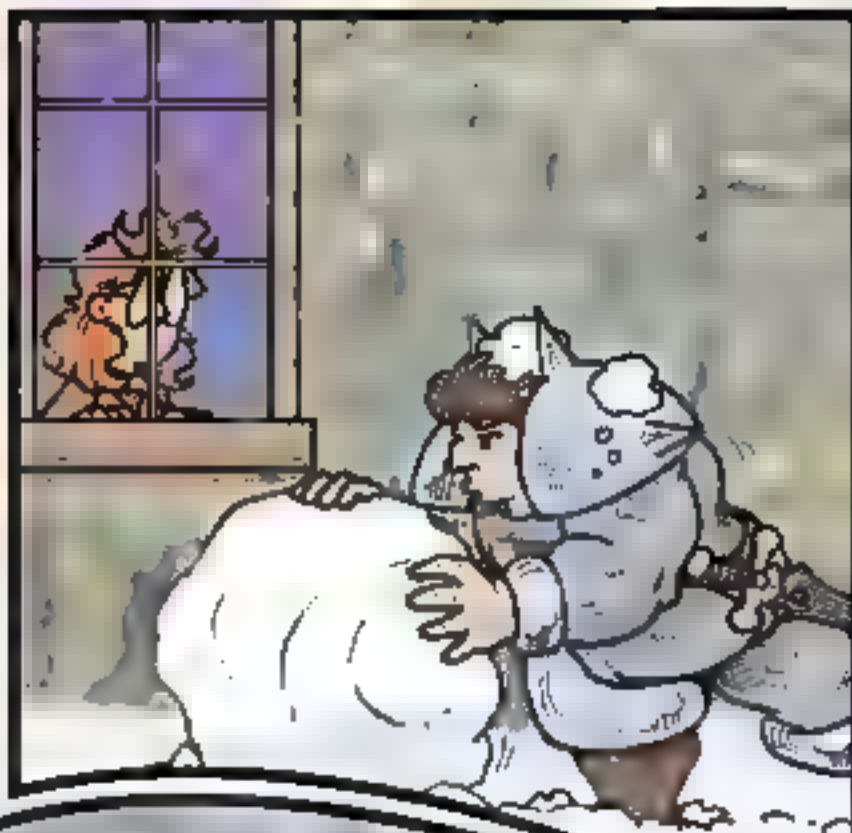
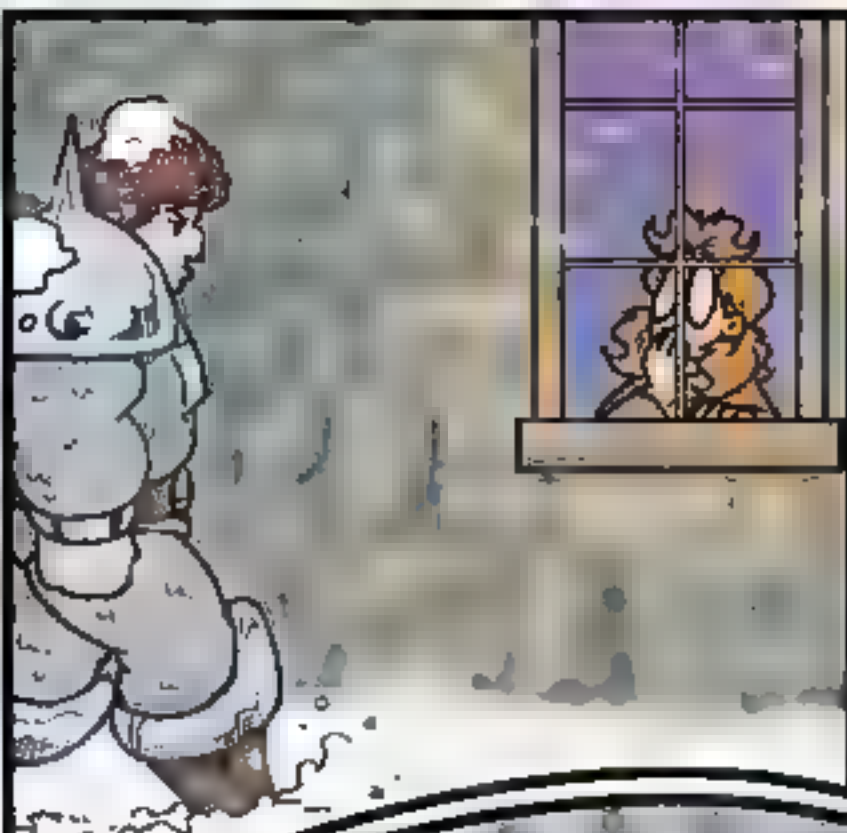
DEAL!

THE ANSWER  
WAS "MONEY," BY  
THE WAY.

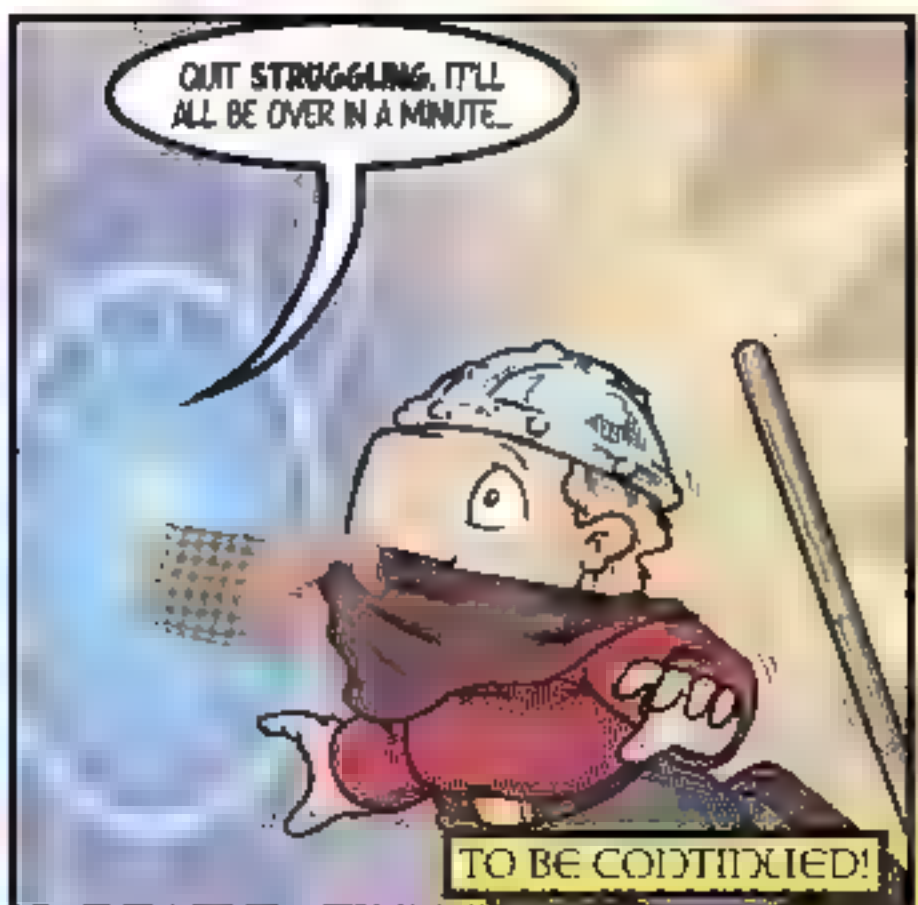
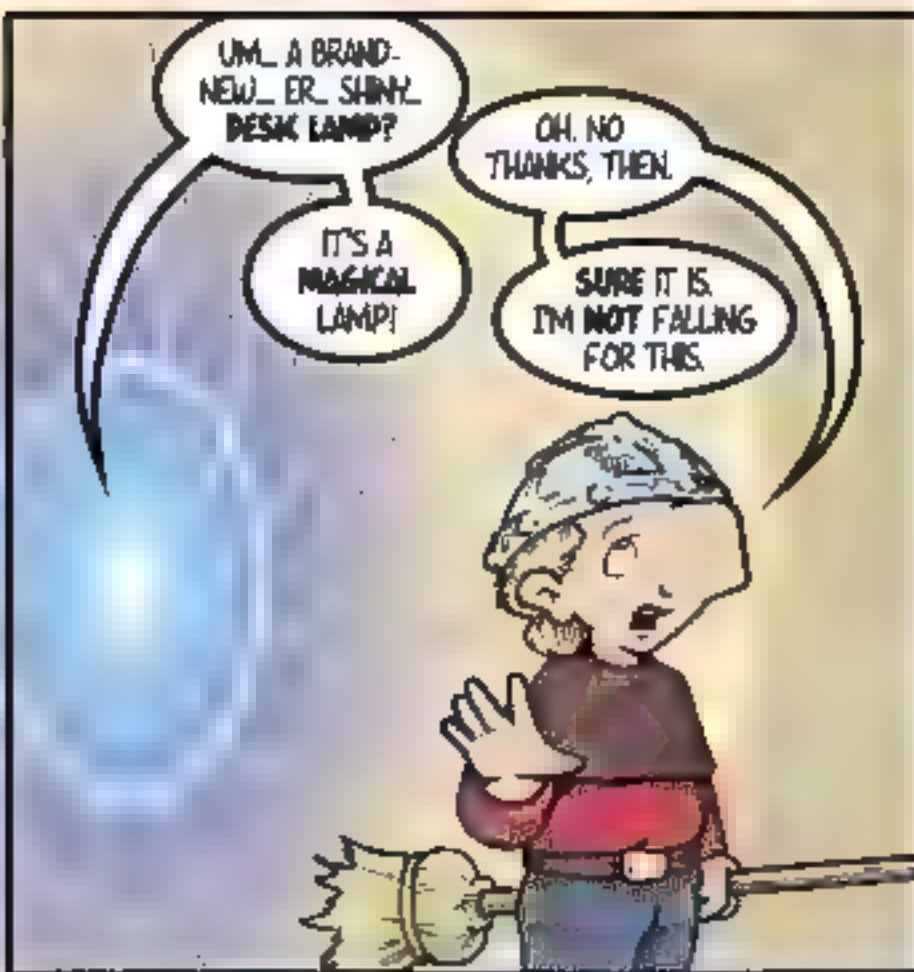
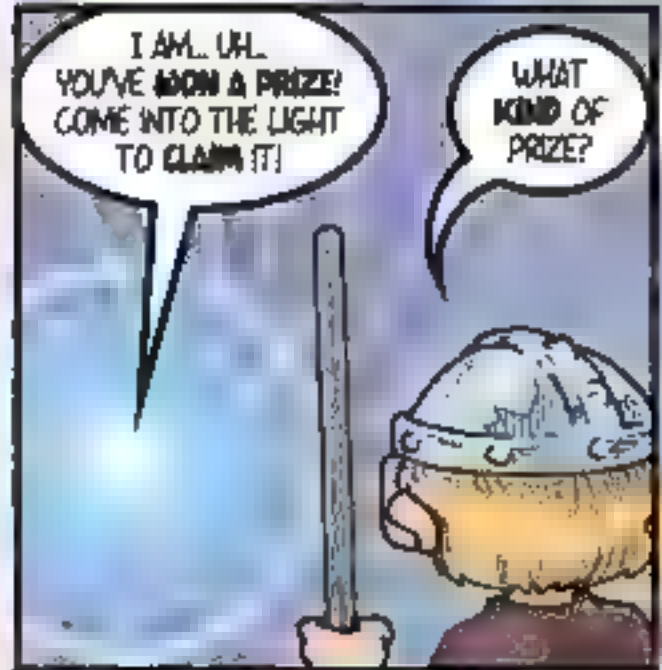
WEREN'T  
YOU PAYING ATTENTION?  
THE ANSWER IS ALWAYS  
MONEY!



# Nodwick



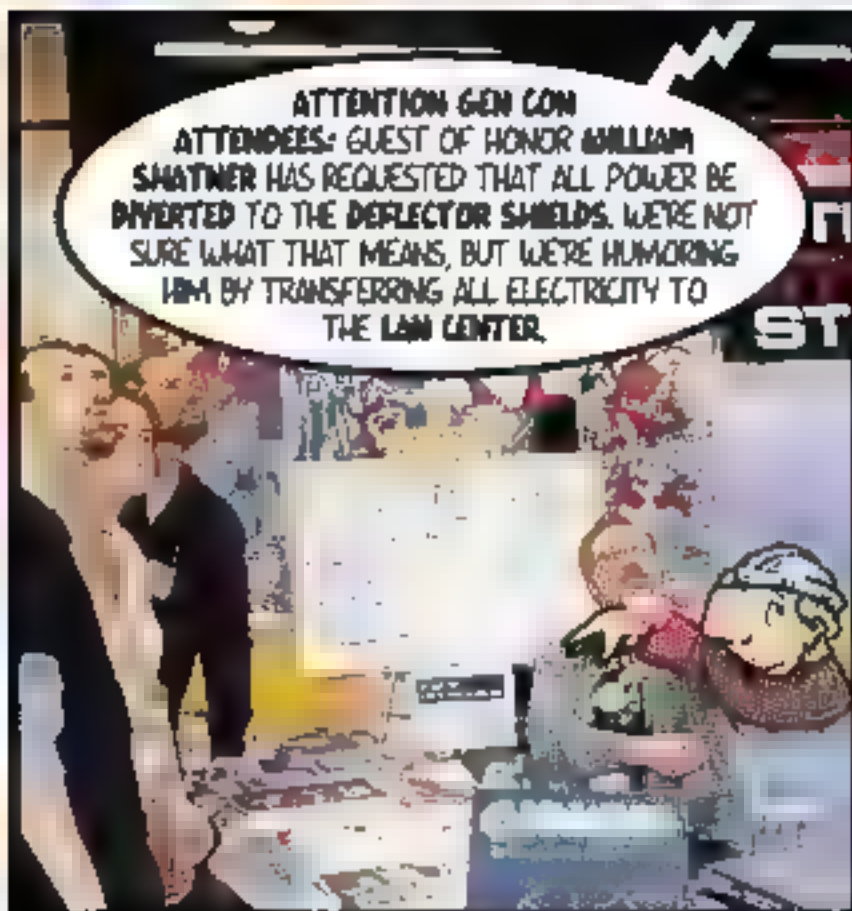
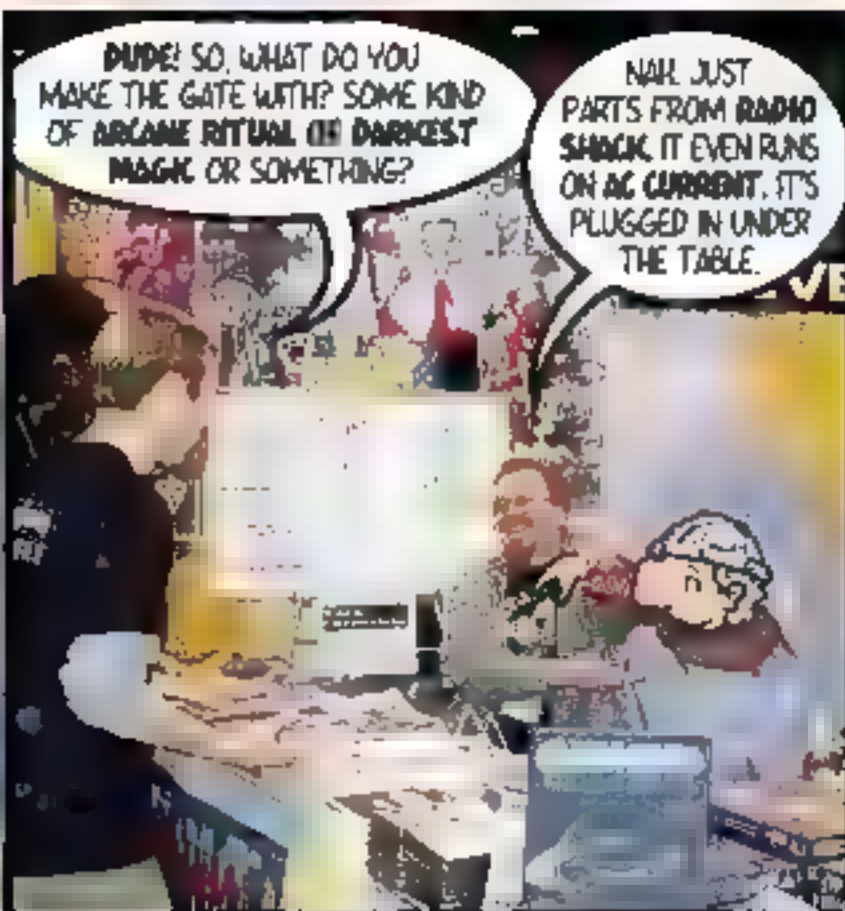






# Nodwick

SO YOU SEE, ALL I DO IS OPEN A GATE INTO A PARALLEL UNIVERSE AND I DRAW WHAT I SEE. THIS IS THE REAL, LIVE NODWICK. PRETTY COOL, HUH?





# Noodwick

THERE!  
SIX VOLUMES OF  
NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS.  
I'VE GOT A BUSY YEAR  
AHEAD!

ANY RESOLUTIONS,  
YEAGAR? GOING TO GIVE  
UP ANY OF THE SEVEN  
DEADLY SINS?

NAH, I TRIED  
THAT ONCE AND PIFFANY  
TOLD ME TO NEVER DO  
IT AGAIN.

BECAUSE?

BECAUSE HE  
MANAGED TO INVENT AN  
EIGHTH ONE.

I THINK WE CALLED IT  
"BLASPHEMOTROCTERRA-O-RAMA" OR SOMETHING.  
IT WAS KINDA FUN, ACTUALLY.

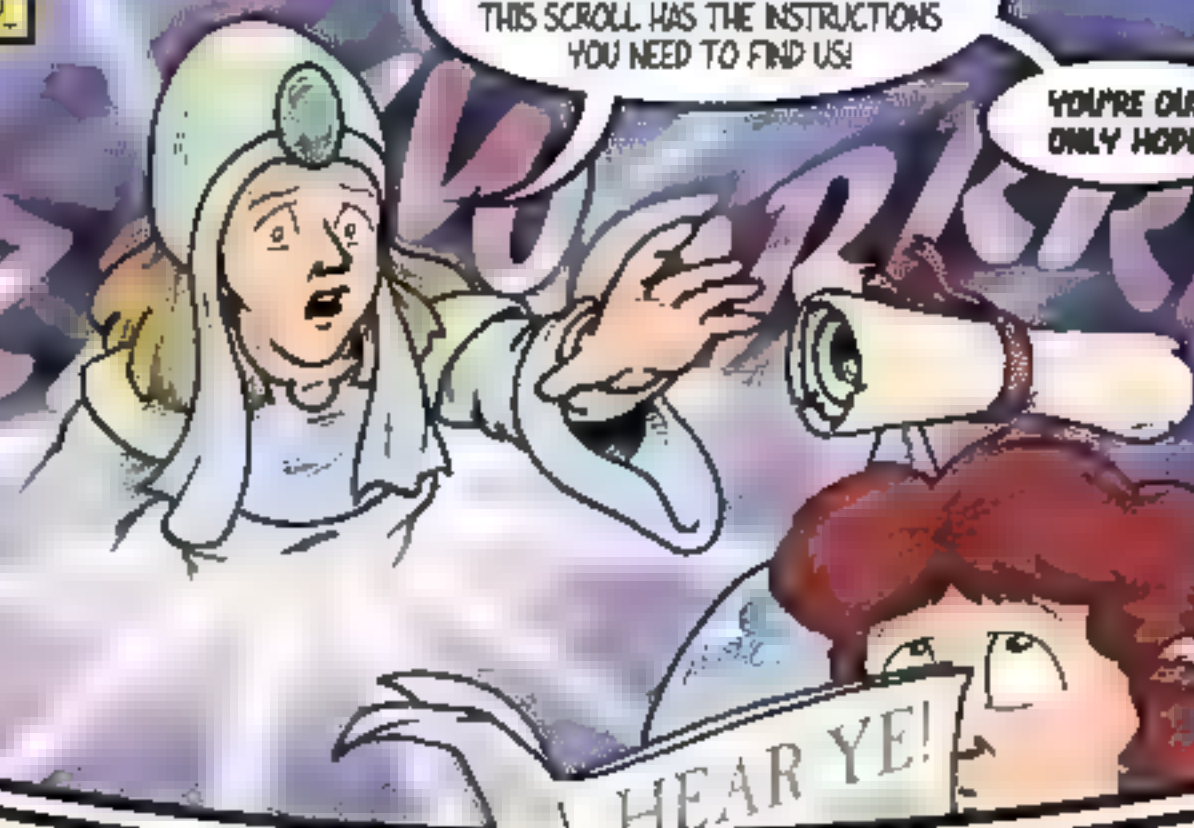




SUDDENLY...

YOU MUST SAVE US!  
OUR HOMELAND IS BEING DESTROYED!  
THIS SCROLL HAS THE INSTRUCTIONS  
YOU NEED TO FIND US!

YOU'RE OUR  
ONLY HOPE!



ZWOOP!

HUH. SUCKS  
TO BE THEM, I  
GUESS.

YEAGAR!





# Nodwick

BUT I HAD  
PLANS FOR THIS  
AFTERNOON!

OTHERS ARE  
IN NEED! WE HAVE TO LEND  
ASSISTANCE!

I'M SURE  
THEY'LL COMPENSATE  
US FOR OUR TROUBLE ANYONE  
WHO CAN ZAP A SCROLL AS  
FAR AS THEY DID MUST HAVE  
SOMETHING THEY CAN  
OFFER US.

YOU  
DON'T UNDERSTAND!  
TODAY WAS GOING  
TO BE--

SEE YOU OUT  
FRONT IN FIFTEEN  
MINUTES!

SHE SAYS I GOTTA  
GO. SORRY.

BUT WE  
ALREADY ROLLED UP  
YOUR STATS!

I EVEN  
DID A CHARACTER  
SKETCH!

IT'S AMAZING  
HOW SOME GUYS CAN BE  
MARRIED WITHOUT EVEN  
BEING MARRIED.







# Nodwick



THE CITY IS OVERRUN WITH DEMONIC FORCES!

WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?



WE NEED TO FIND THE TEMPLE OF ALPHALAR. THAT'S WHERE THIS SCROLL CAME FROM.

LOOKS LIKE WE'LL HAVE TO FIGHT OUR WAY IN.

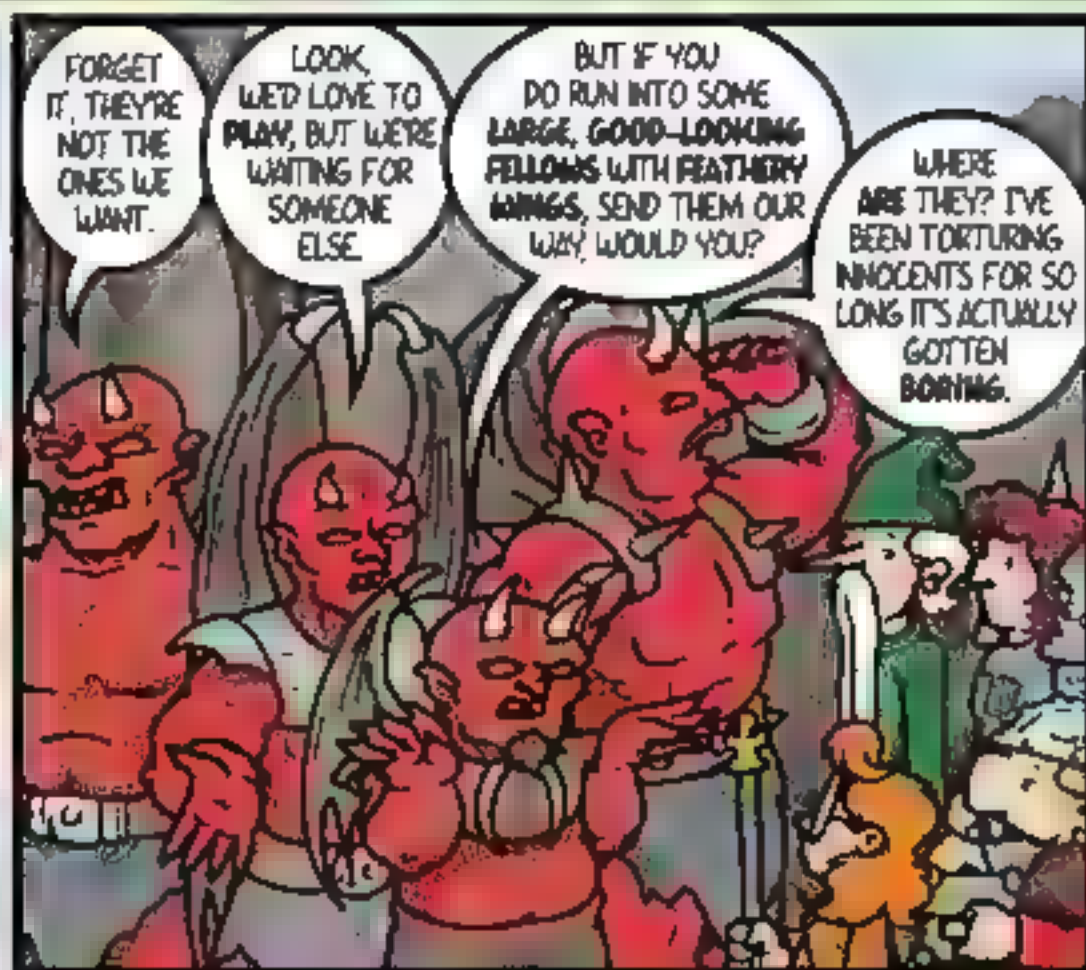
GOODNESS AND THINKING POSITIVE ARE ON OUR SIDE! WE CAN'T FAIL!



DEMON-KABOOS FOR EVERYONE!

HAPPINESS WILL PREVAIL!

ELDRICH FORCES SHALL BE YOUR UNDOING!



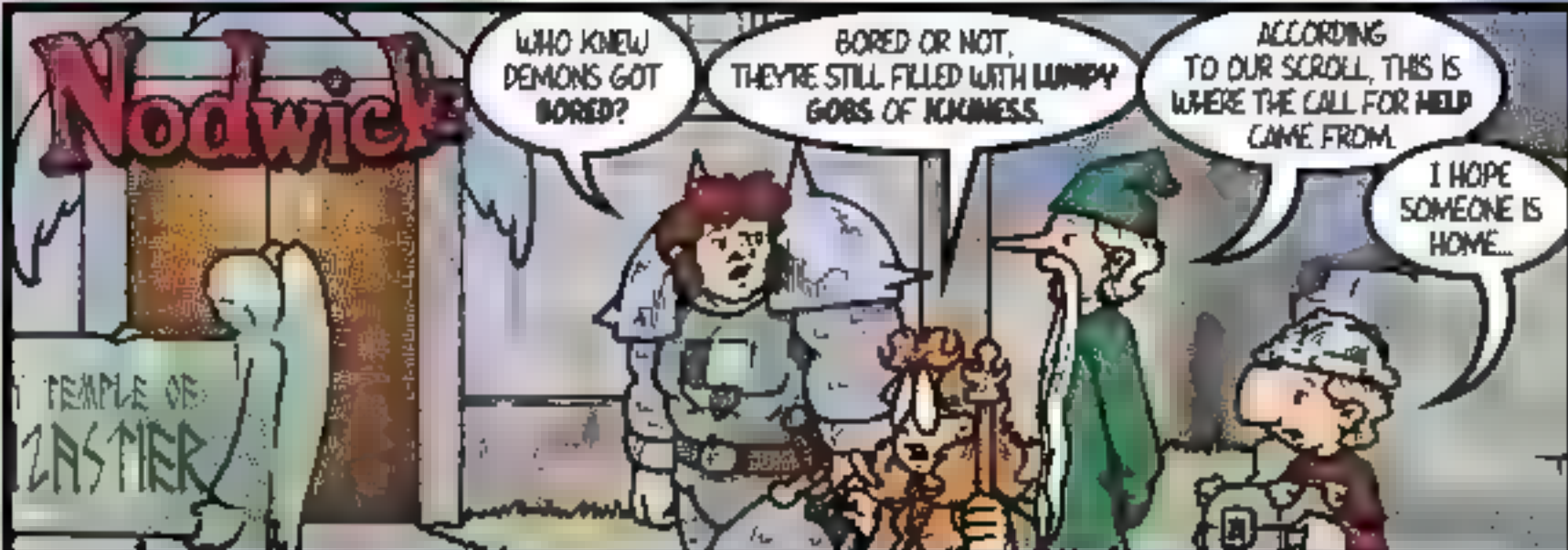
FORGET IT, THEY'RE NOT THE ONES WE WANT.

LOOK, WE'D LOVE TO PLAY, BUT WE'RE WAITING FOR SOMEONE ELSE.

BUT IF YOU DO RUN INTO SOME LARGE, GOOD-LOOKING FELLOWS WITH FEATHERY WINGS, SEND THEM OUR WAY, WOULD YOU?

WHERE ARE THEY? I'VE BEEN TORTURING INNOCENTS FOR SO LONG IT'S ACTUALLY GOTTEN BORING.







# Nochurch

EXCUSE MY CO-PREFECT. HE IS OF THE OPINION THAT OUR DEMON PROBLEM WILL SOLVE ITSELF.

WHEN? IT'S BEEN WEEKS!

PROPHECY SAYS WE WILL BE DELIVERED FROM EVIL.

THE UNRIGHTEOUS MUST BE PUNISHED BEFORE WE ARE SAVED.

ANYONE WHO ISN'T HERE IS ALREADY BEING PUNISHED! HOW COULD THE POPULACE OF OUR REALM BE SO WICKED AS TO DESERVE THIS DEVASTATION?

EXCUSE ME, BUT THIS MIGHT BE A GOOD TIME TO FILL US IN.

WHAT DOES YOUR PROPHECY SAY?

WELL, CENTURIES AGO...

HO! I AM AN EVIL WIZARD, AND I CURSE THIS LAND! SIX AETIDES FROM NOW, EVIL SHALL UNVEIL ITSELF AND SMITE THIS PLACE AND ITS PEOPLES!

I COUNTER YOUR CURSE WITH A BLESSING FROM OUR GOD, DRIZASTIER! THE WINGED FORCES OF GOOD WILL SAVE OUR PEOPLE FROM YOUR FOULNESS, AND THEY SHALL KNOW THAT THE ONE TRUE CHURCH KEEPS THEM AND THEIR SOULS FROM HARM!

AND THAT'S ABOUT IT. WE'VE GOT THE PART ABOUT EVIL, BUT WE SEEM TO BE A LITTLE SHORT ON THE "WINGED FORCES OF GOOD."

THEY'RE BOUND TO SHOW UP. BESIDES, WE'RE SAFE FROM HARM AS LONG AS WE STICK TO HOLY SITES.

AND THIS PLACE IS NICE AND HOLY?

OH, YES. IT CONTAINS THE SACRED SPRING OF SAINT ZUCHER. AS LONG AS IT REMAINS PURE--

SORRY I DIDN'T EXCUSE MYSELF, BUT I REALLY HAD TO GO. YOU GUYS HAVE GOT THE AWESOMEST BATHROOM IN THERE. AND SOME GUY NAMED "ZUCHER" CARVED HIS NAME ON YOUR JOIN.



DEMONS!!!

I DON'T SUPPOSE ANYONE  
HERE CAN RE-CONSECRATE THE CHURCH IN UNDER  
THREE SECONDS, CAN THEY?

SORRY. MY PERSONAL BEST  
WAS AT LEAST TWENTY MINUTES, AND THAT  
WAS AFTER A FULL NIGHT'S SLEEP AND A  
WELL-BALANCED BREAKF-

DO YOU  
HAVE A BACK DOOR  
HANDY?

THIS WAY!

WE CAN  
SLOW THEIR  
PROGRESS, BUT  
IT'S NOT GOING  
TO HOLD  
FOREVER!

THEIR SHEER  
NASTY-BADNESS IS  
OVERWHELMING!

OUR HEROES MAKE THEIR ESCAPE.

THE POOR  
PEOPLE. WE  
WERE THEIR  
LAST HOPE.

WE'LL THINK OF  
SOMETHING.

LIKE WHAT?

LIKE EVEN GIVEN  
OUR PAST PERFORMANCE, I CAN'T  
THINK HOW WE CAN MAKE THIS  
SITUATION ANY WORSE.

A FEW MILES LATER.

I THINK  
THEY STOPPED  
CHASING US.

THEY TEND TO LOSE  
INTEREST PAST THE CITY LIMITS,  
BUT I DOUBT THAT WILL ALWAYS  
BE THE CASE.

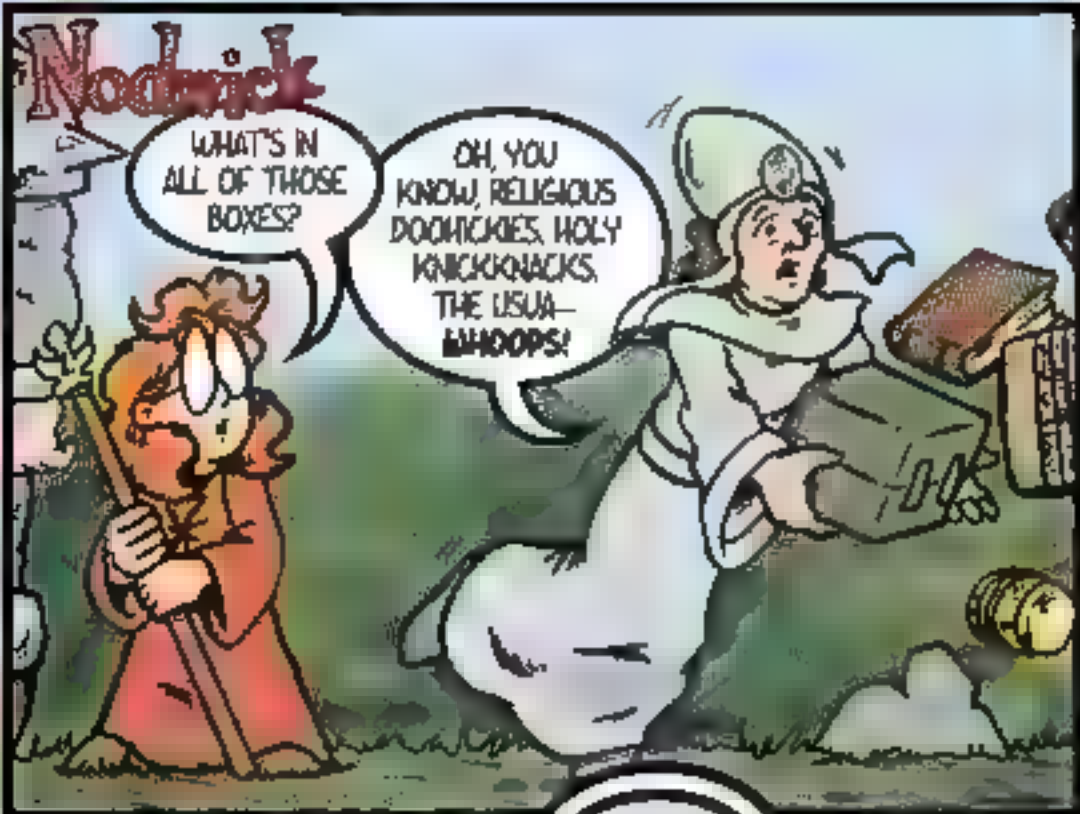
AT LEAST I  
SAVED MOST OF  
OUR RELICS.

TO HELP  
US DEFEAT THE  
DEMONS?

TO RESTART THE  
CHURCH ABOUT A THOUSAND MILES  
AWAY FROM HERE!

THAT'S NOT A  
BAD PLAN, WHEN YOU  
THINK ABOUT IT...





WHAT'S IN ALL OF THOSE BOXES?

OH, YOU KNOW, RELIGIOUS NOOBICKIES, HOLY KNICKKNACKS, THE USUAL—  
WHOOOPS!



HERE, LET ME GET... WHAT THE?

DON'T TOUCH THAT! IT'S VERY SACRED AND STUFF!



WHAT IS IT?

IT LOOKS LIKE A SUMMONING TALISMAN. "DEMONICUS PORTATUM GRATIS GOOGLEIE MOOGUE." YEP, THIS IS WHAT CALLED YOUR DEMONS HERE.

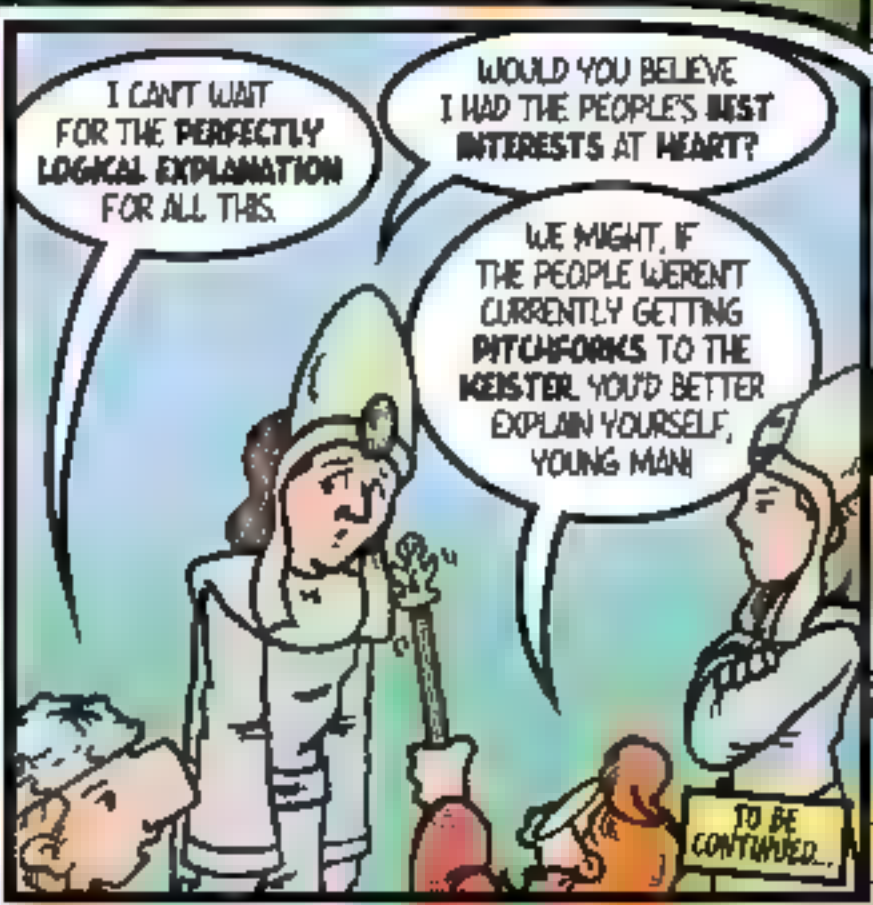
AND IT'S BEEN RECENTLY USED. ALL OF ITS POWER HAS BEEN EXPENDED.

SO WHAT ARE ALL THESE PIECES FROM?



THEY WERE ANOTHER TALISMAN THAT WAS SUPPOSED TO SUMMON THE ANGELS, BUT I KINDA DROPPED IT.

SORRY, I KIND OF MISSED WHERE IN OUR CHURCH BULLETIN IT SAID WE WERE GOING TO CAUSE ARMAGEDDON ON PURPOSE! WAS IT UNDER THE NOTICE ABOUT OUR NEXT CRAFT BAZAAR?



I CAN'T WAIT FOR THE PERFECTLY LOGICAL EXPLANATION FOR ALL THIS.

WOULD YOU BELIEVE I HAD THE PEOPLE'S BEST INTERESTS AT HEART?

WE MIGHT, IF THE PEOPLE WERENT CURRENTLY GETTING PITCHFORKS TO THE KEISTER. YOU'D BETTER EXPLAIN YOURSELF, YOUNG MAN!

TO BE CONTINUED...



# Nodwick

WELL... IT WASN'T EXACTLY LIKE WE TOLD YOU.

THERE WAS A WIZARD AND A HIGH PRIEST A COUPLE OF CENTURIES AGO. THE HIGH PRIEST WAS A RELATIVE OF MINE.

SO LETMEE GET THIS STRAIGHT: YOU WANT TWO SUMMONING SPELLS, ONE TO SUMMON SOME DEMONS, AND THEN ONE TO SUMMON SOME ANGELS TO KICK THEIR BUTTS. IS THAT RIGHT?

EXACTLY. WHEN MY DESCENDANTS INVOKE THEM, AND THE "FORCES OF GOOD" ARE VICTORIOUS, NOT ONLY WILL OUR CHURCH GROW A HUNDREDFOLD, BUT MY FAMILY WILL BE NO DOUBT BE GIVEN POSITIONS OF POWER FOR A THOUSAND YEARS!

WHATEVER POPULATES YOUR DREAMS, PAL. NOW, LET'S DISCUSS MY FEE.

I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS.

SO THIS SECRET WAS PASSED DOWN THROUGH MY FAMILY FOR CENTURIES, AND I DECIDED TO, UM, USE IT. BUT I SORT OF...

SMASHED YOUR ONLY HOPE INTO A BAZILLION PIECES.

WELL OF COURSE IT'S GOING TO SOUND BAD WHEN YOU PUT IT THAT WAY.

WHAT DO YOU GUYS THINK?

THE ENERGY MATRIX MIGHT STILL BE SALVAGEABLE, IF WE HAVE ALL THE PARTS.

I LIKE PUZZLES! FIND ALL OF THE EDGE PIECES FIRST.



WELL, IT'S IN ONE  
PIECE. AND THERE'S SOME POWER  
LEFT IN THERE.

HOW'S THE  
MAGIC TABLET REPAIR  
COMING?

WE'LL JUST  
HAVE TO MAKE UP  
THE DIFFERENCE.  
WON'T WE?

HANG ON A  
SECOND, PIFFANK. THIS  
IS A CENTURIES-OLD SPELL  
WOVEN BY AN UNKNOWN  
WIZARD. MIXING IT  
WITH DIVINE POWER  
MIGHT NOT...

IT'S SUPPOSED  
TO SUMMON AN ANGEL  
ARMY, SO HOW COULD  
ANYTHING BAD HAPPEN? I'LL  
JUST GIVE IT A LITTLE  
NUDGE...



# ABRACA-HOLEN- BLANIMIO!

WHAT WAS  
THAT?!

I GUESS IT  
DIDN'T LIKE HER BEDSIDE  
MANNER.

HEY,  
WHERE DID  
SHE GO?



MEANWHILE...

OKAY, WE'VE  
GOT THE FOLKS FROM  
THE CHURCH TRUSSSED UP  
OVER THE BURNING  
DUNG PITS.

STILL NO  
SIGN OF THE ENEMY,  
THOUGH, EHP?

WELL,  
WE CAN PLAY  
GIN RUMMY AGAIN  
TONIGHT, I  
GUESS.

UM, GUYS? I  
THINK WE'VE GOT  
INCOMING.

WHAT THE--?



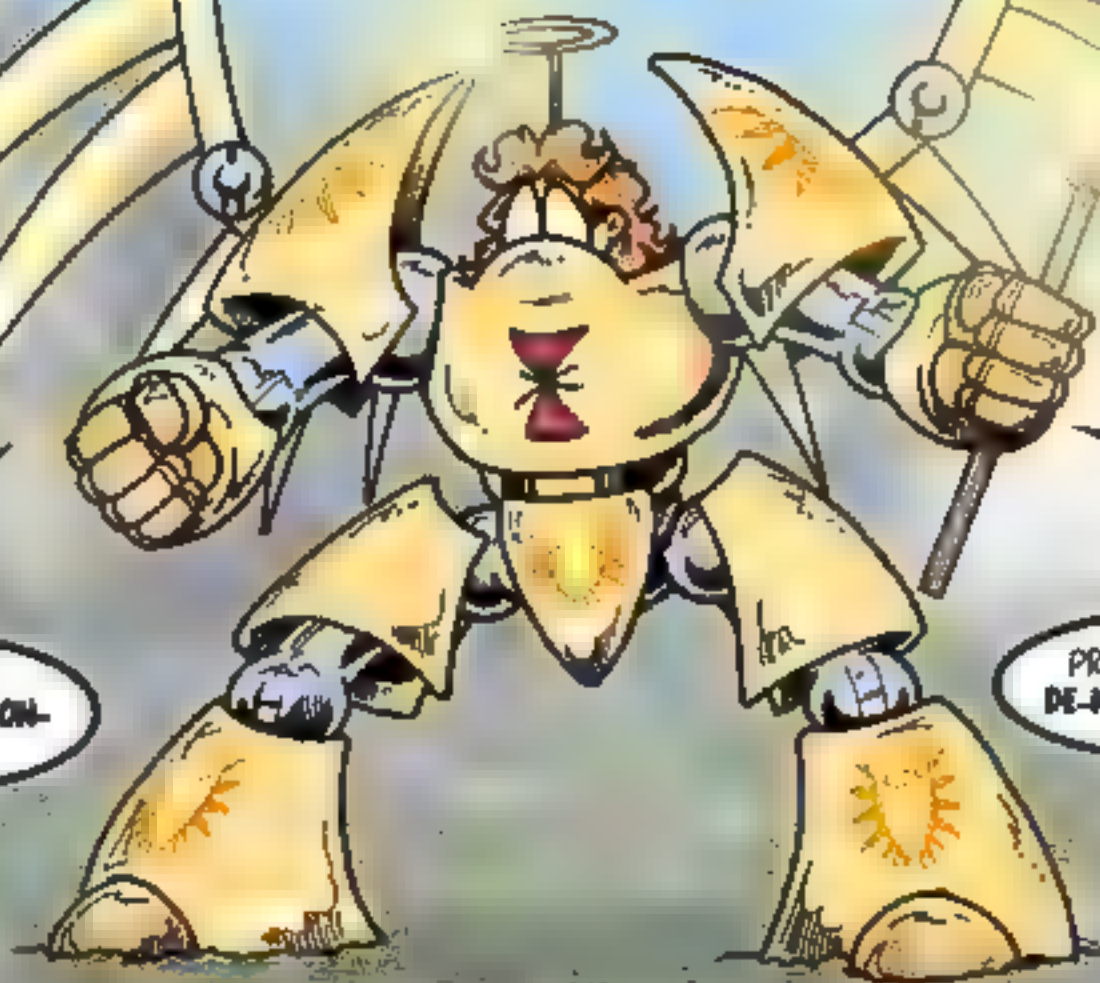
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AGAIN!



# Nodwick

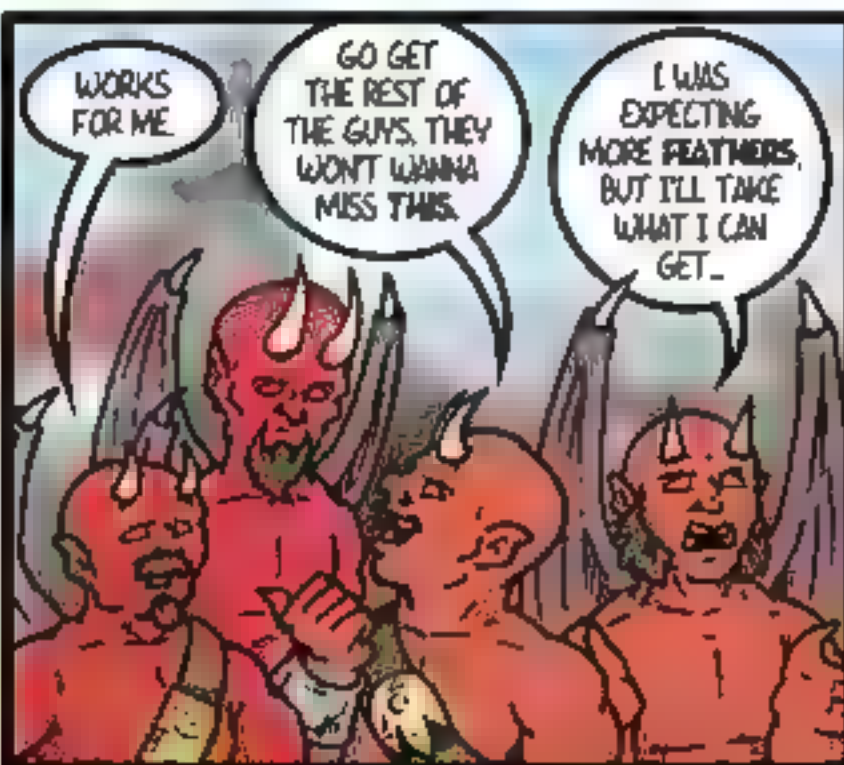
WHAM!

SMASH!



OKAY YOU  
ICKY-HEAD DEMON-  
GUYS!

PREPARE FOR FINAL  
DE-NAUGHTIFICATION!



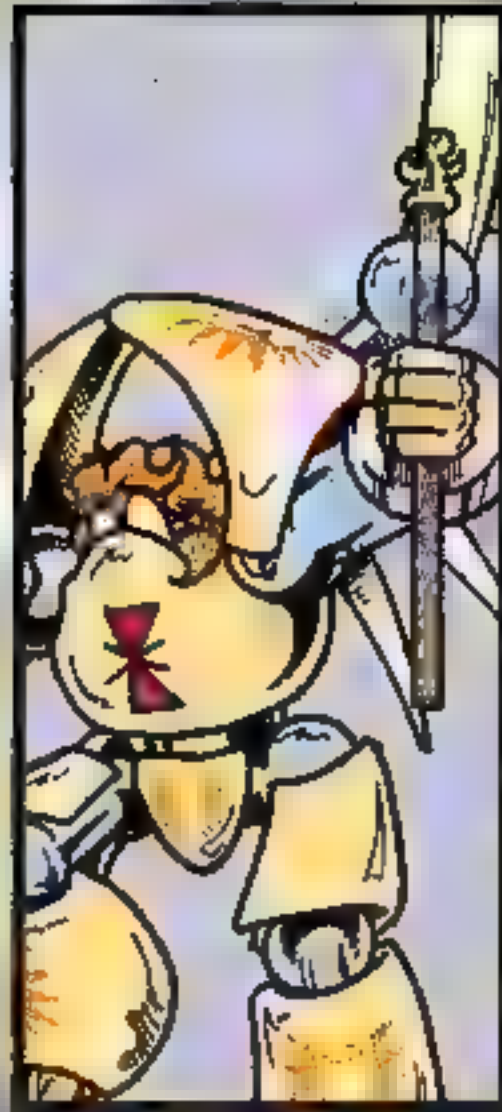
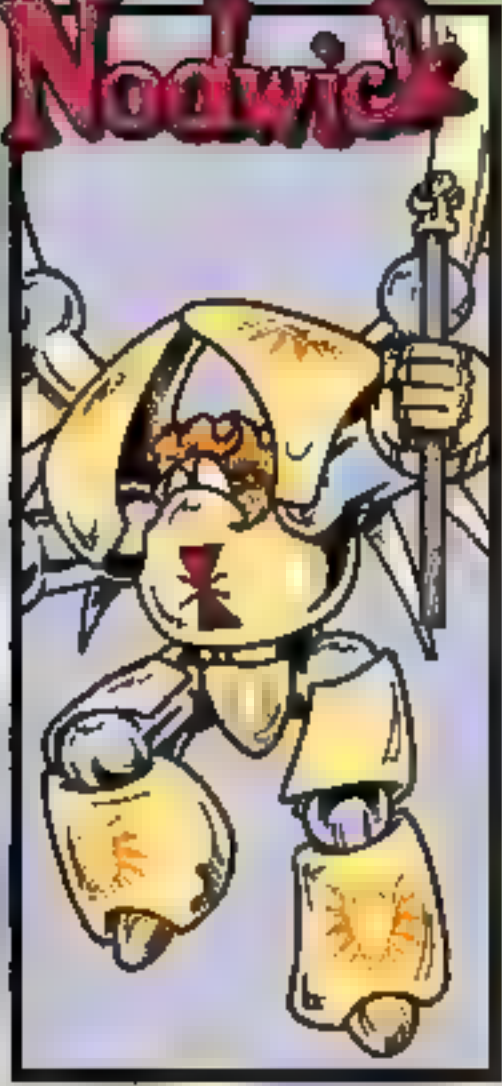
WORKS  
FOR ME

GO GET  
THE REST OF  
THE GUYS. THEY  
WON'T WANNA  
MISS THIS.

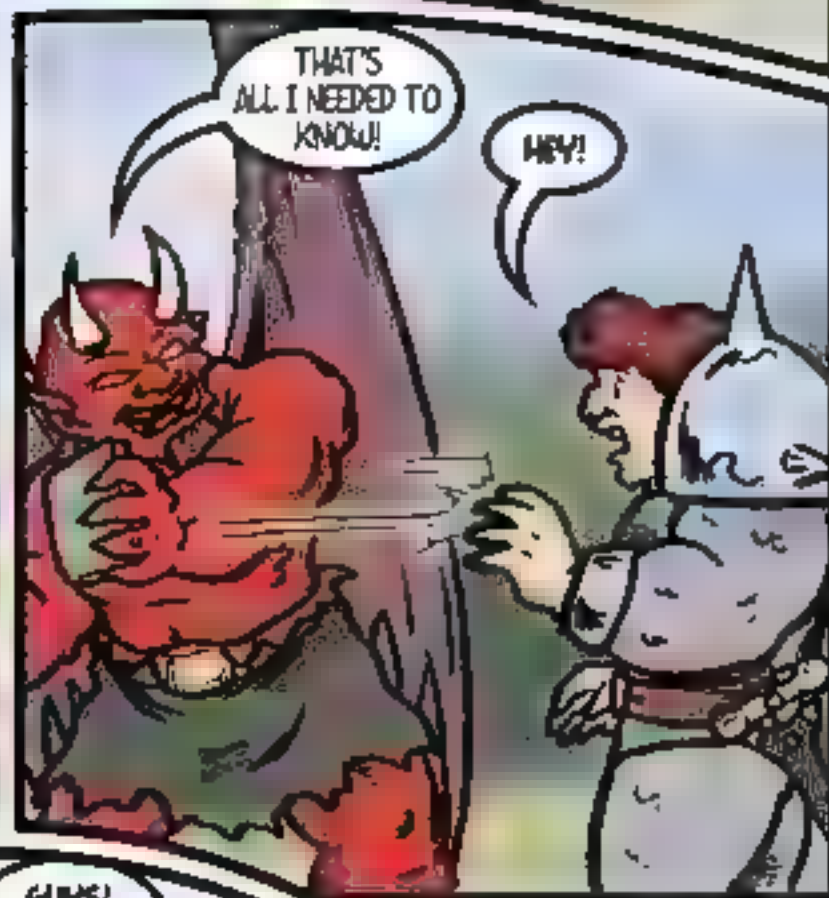
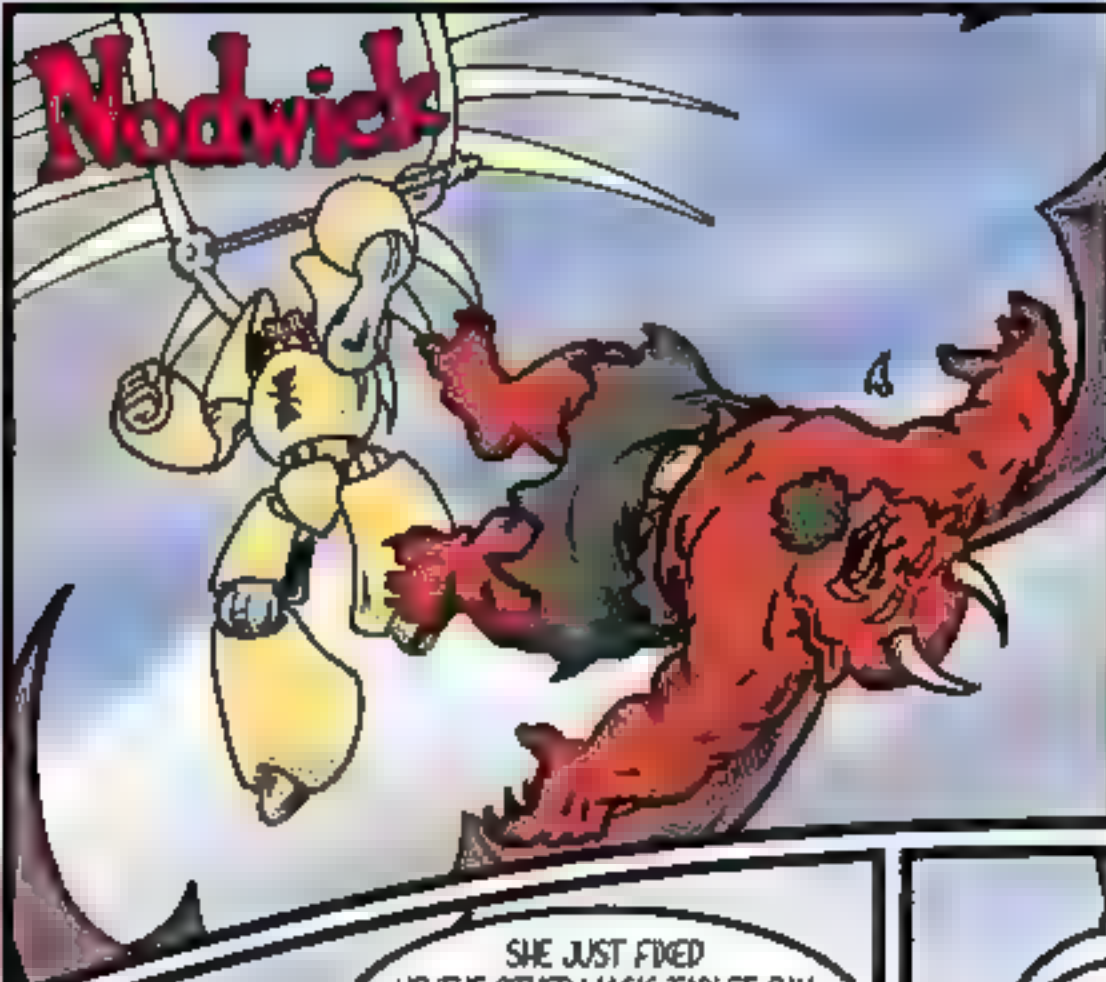
I WAS  
EXPECTING  
MORE FEATHERS,  
BUT I'LL TAKE  
WHAT I CAN  
GET.



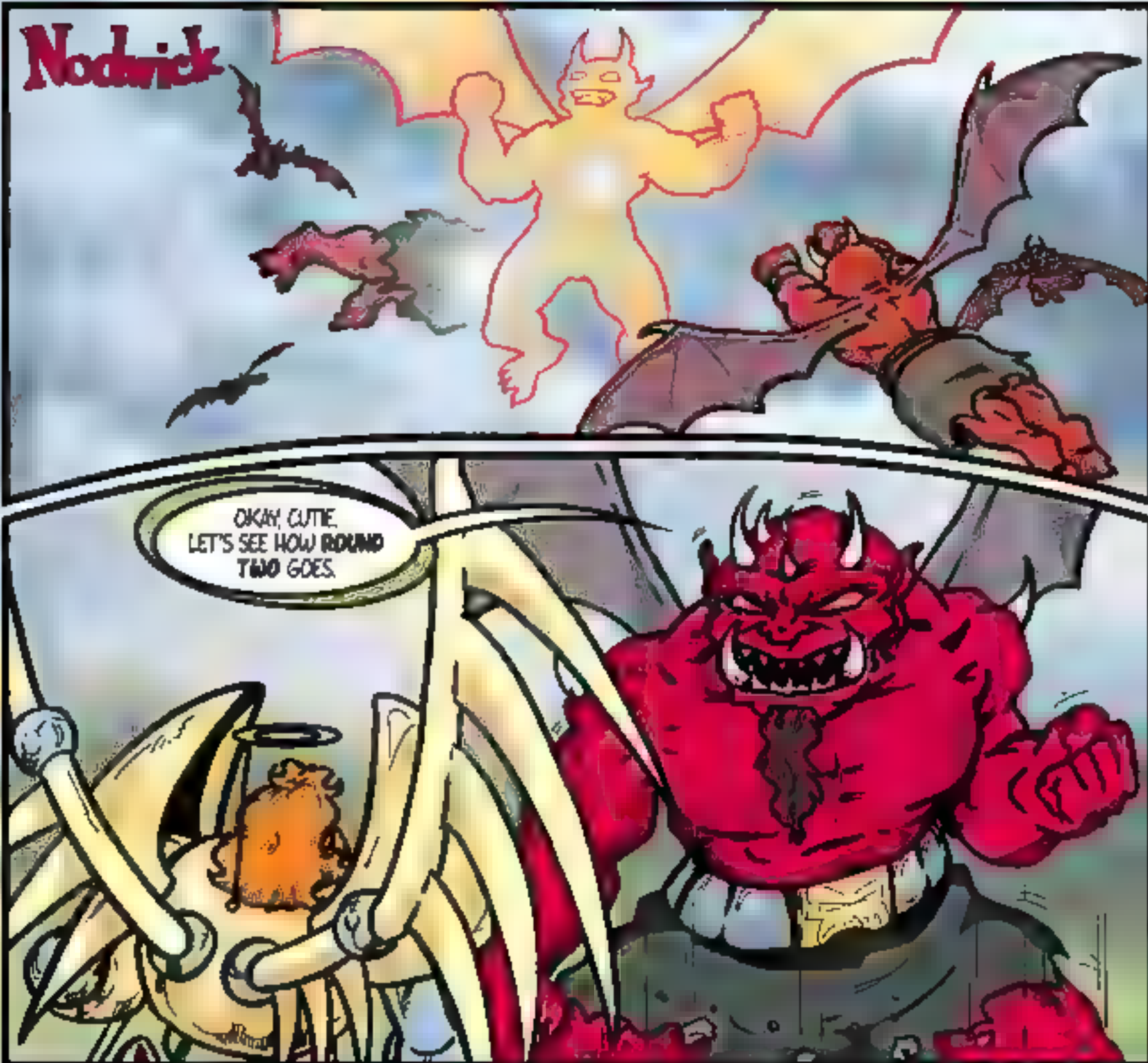
# Nodwick



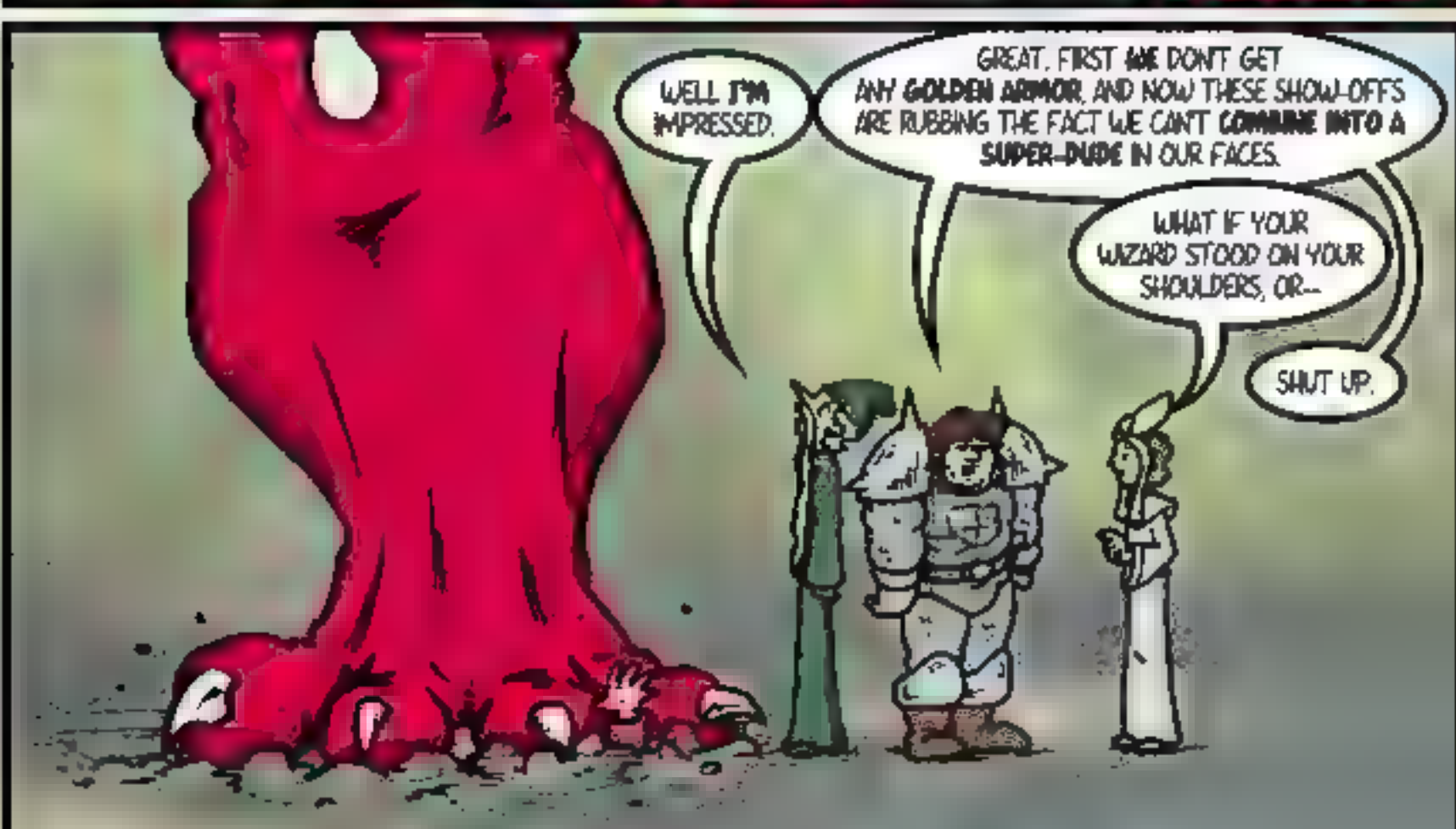








OKAY, CUTIE.  
LET'S SEE HOW ROUND  
TWO GOES.



WELL I'M  
IMPRESSED.

GREAT. FIRST WE DON'T GET  
ANY GOLDEN ARMOR, AND NOW THESE SHOW-OFFS  
ARE RUBBING THE FACT WE CAN'T COMBINE INTO A  
SUPER-DUDE IN OUR FACES.

WHAT IF YOUR  
WIZARD STOOD ON YOUR  
SHOULDERS, OR...

SHUT UP.



# Nodwick









# Nodwick



IT FEELS LIKE THERE'S  
A CHURCH SING-A-LONG IN MY PANTS  
AND EVERYONE'S INVITED!

NOW, CAN  
EITHER ONE OF YOU FLOOD  
A TOWN?

I DON'T SEE WHY NOT.  
WE'VE DONE IT BY ACCIDENT A  
COUPLE OF TIMES.







**Nodwick**

NOW, MY LITTLE  
FOIL-WRAPPED ANGELIC  
OPPONENT, IT'S TIME TO CLIP  
YOUR WINGS FOR  
GOOD.



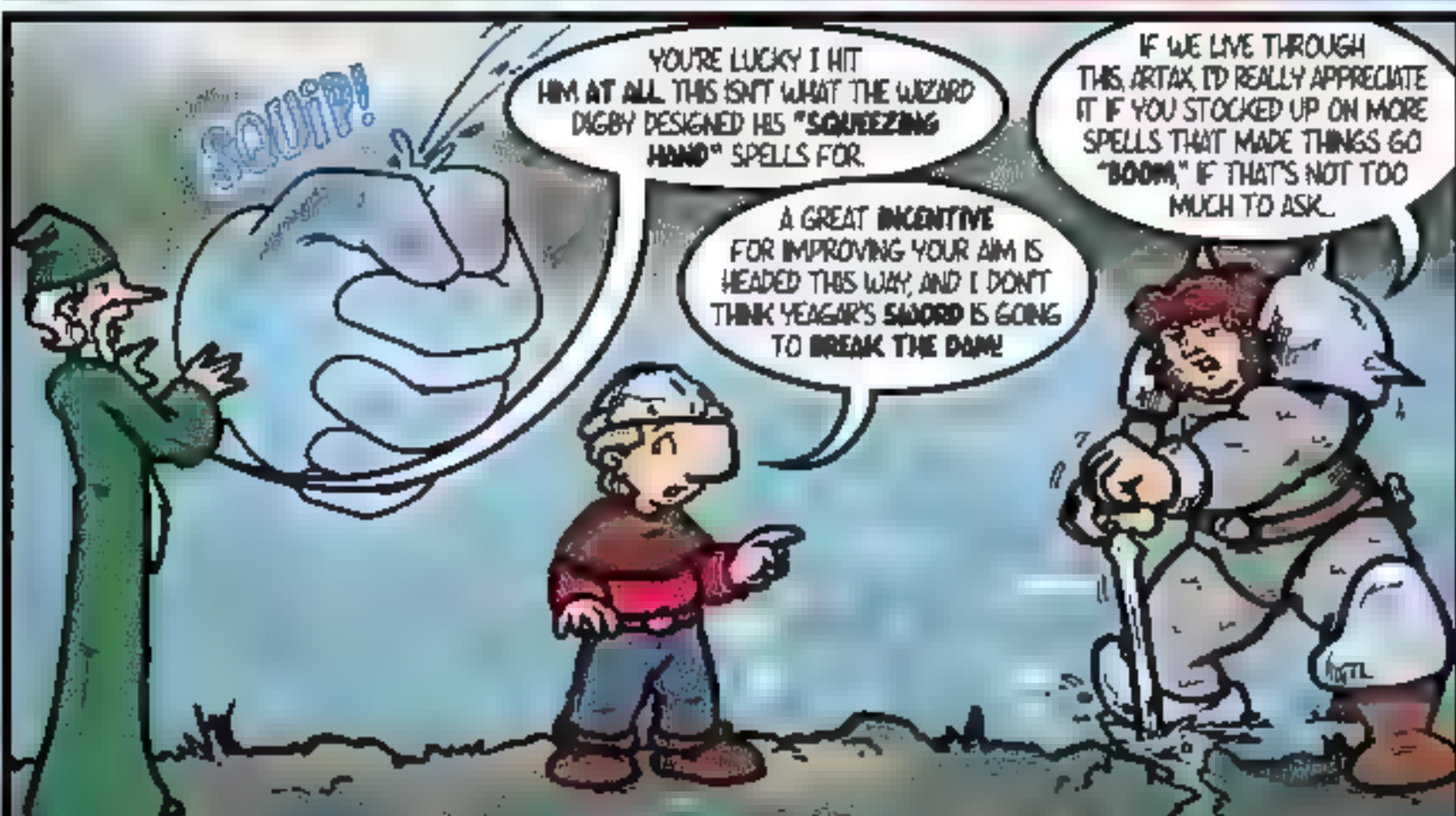
AAAAGGGH! IT  
BURNS! IT BURNS!!!

SPLOOOOSH!



SOMEBOY'S  
JUST BEGGING FOR A  
BRIMSTONE ENEMY.

SQUIP!  
SQUIP!



YOU'RE LUCKY I HIT  
HIM AT ALL. THIS ISN'T WHAT THE WIZARD  
DIGBY DESIGNED HIS "SQUEEZING  
HAND" SPELLS FOR.

A GREAT INCENTIVE  
FOR IMPROVING YOUR AIM IS  
HEADED THIS WAY, AND I DON'T  
THINK YEAGER'S SWORD IS GOING  
TO BREAK THE DAM.

IF WE LIVE THROUGH  
THIS, ARTAX, I'D REALLY APPRECIATE  
IT IF YOU STOCKED UP ON MORE  
SPELLS THAT MADE THINGS GO  
"BOOM," IF THAT'S NOT TOO  
MUCH TO ASK.

SQUIP!



**Noelwick**

DIDNT YOUR MOTHERS  
EVER TEACH YOU THAT SPLASHING  
THE BIG KIDS CAN BE HAZARDOUS  
TO YOUR HEALTH?

OH, YEAH?  
WELL, HE SAYS YOU'RE NOT ALL  
THAT TOUGH.

WHAT?! I  
NEVER...

**FLAM-BIZZLE!**

WHAT DID THAT  
ACCOMPLISH?

I WAS BUYING  
TIME FOR YOU TO THINK OF A  
WAY OUT OF THIS.

I'LL NEED MORE  
TIME THAN THAT.

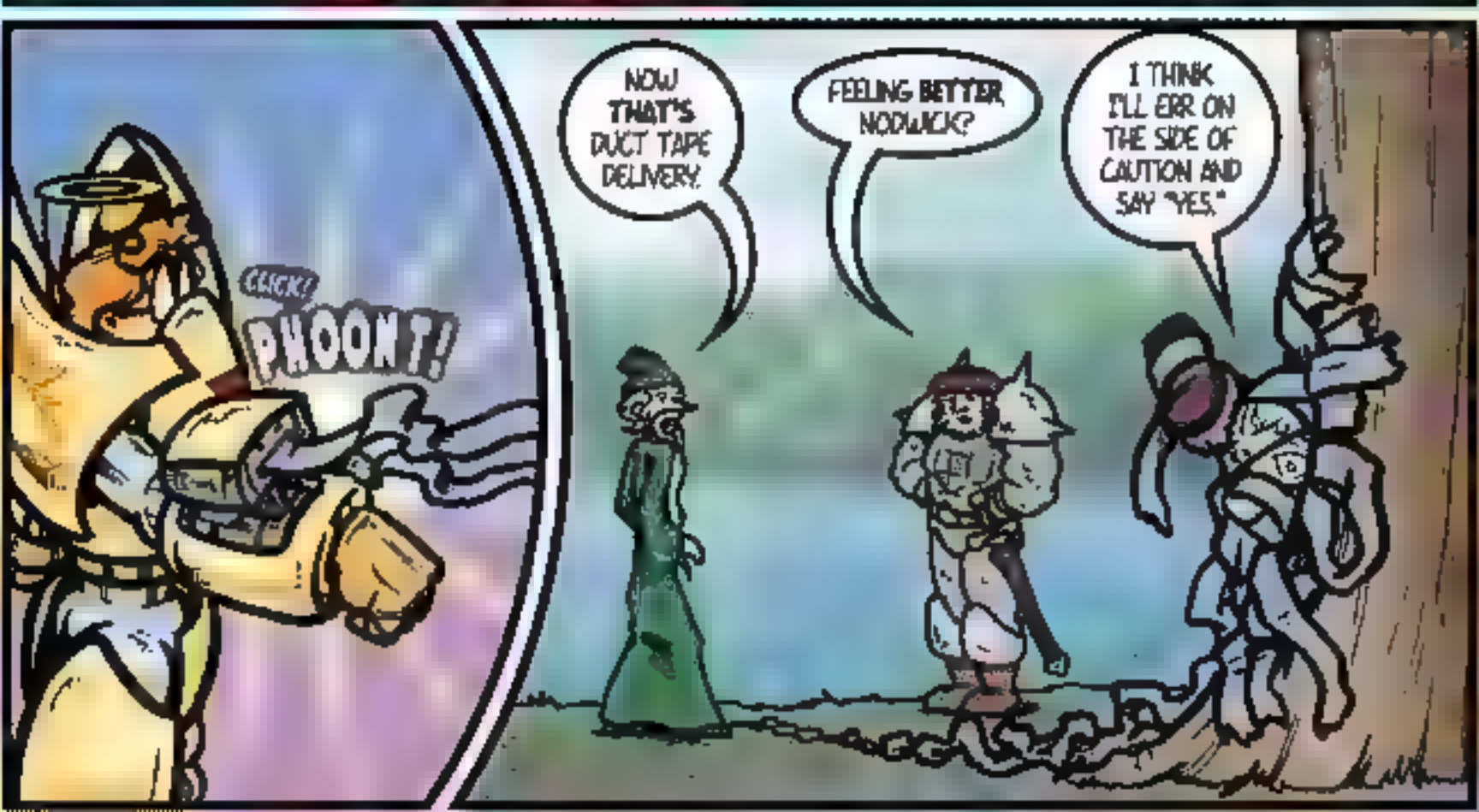
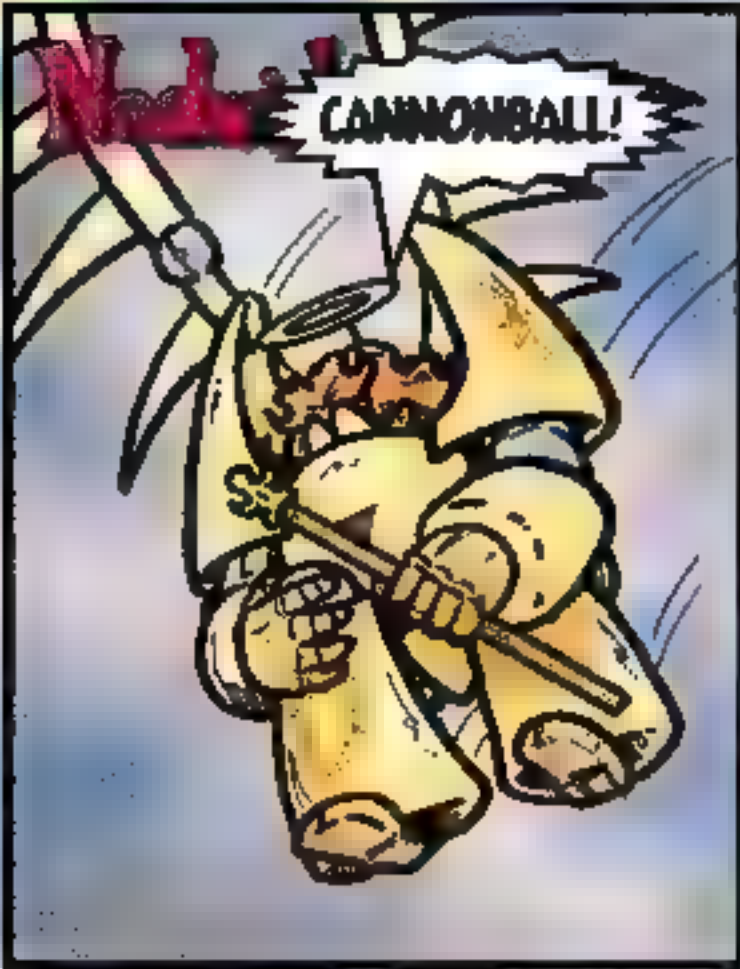
THEN I'LL NEED  
MORE VOLUNTIERS.

HANG ON.  
WHAT'S THAT IN  
THE SKY?

SORRY, MAGIC-BOY.  
YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO COME UP  
WITH SOMETHING SLIGHTLY MORE  
ORIGINAL.

TELLING ME  
MY SHOE IS UNTIED WON'T  
WORK, EITHER.







AS A PART OF DUNGEON MAGAZINE'S PEACHY 100TH ISSUE, WE THOUGHT WE'D BRING IN A SPECIAL GUEST!

AS EVERYONE KNOWS, ALL ADVENTURING DERIVES FROM ONE PIVOTAL MOMENT IN DUNGEONEERING...



THE TEN-FOOT BY TEN-FOOT ROOM WITH AN ORC GUARDING A CHEST!



AND WHILE THAT ORIGINAL ORC IS NO LONGER WITH US, WE FOUND HIS GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GRANDSON—I MEAN GRANDORC—ER, GRAND...

SO LET'S GIVE HIM A WARM WELCOME WITH A BIG ROUND OF...



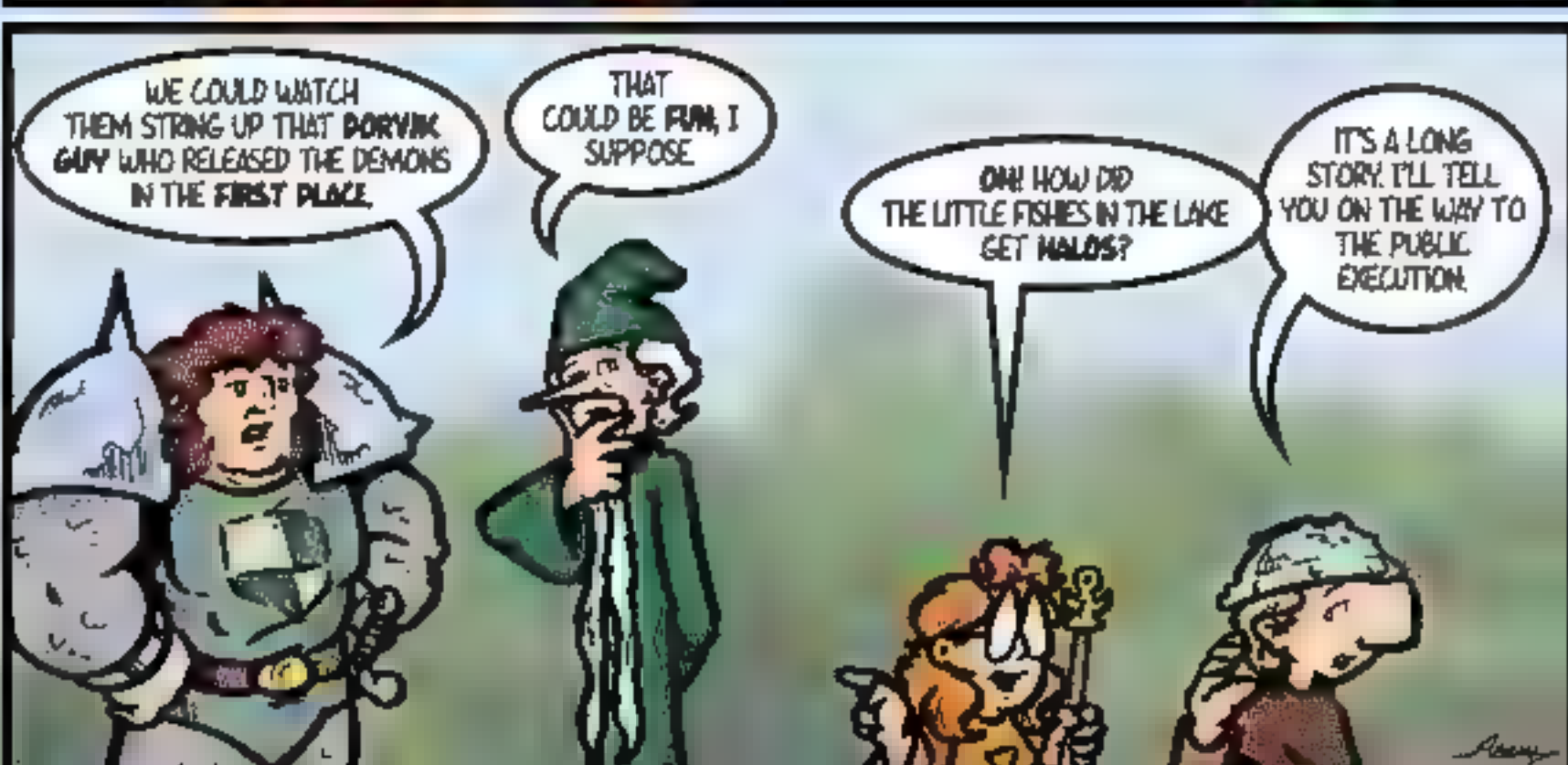
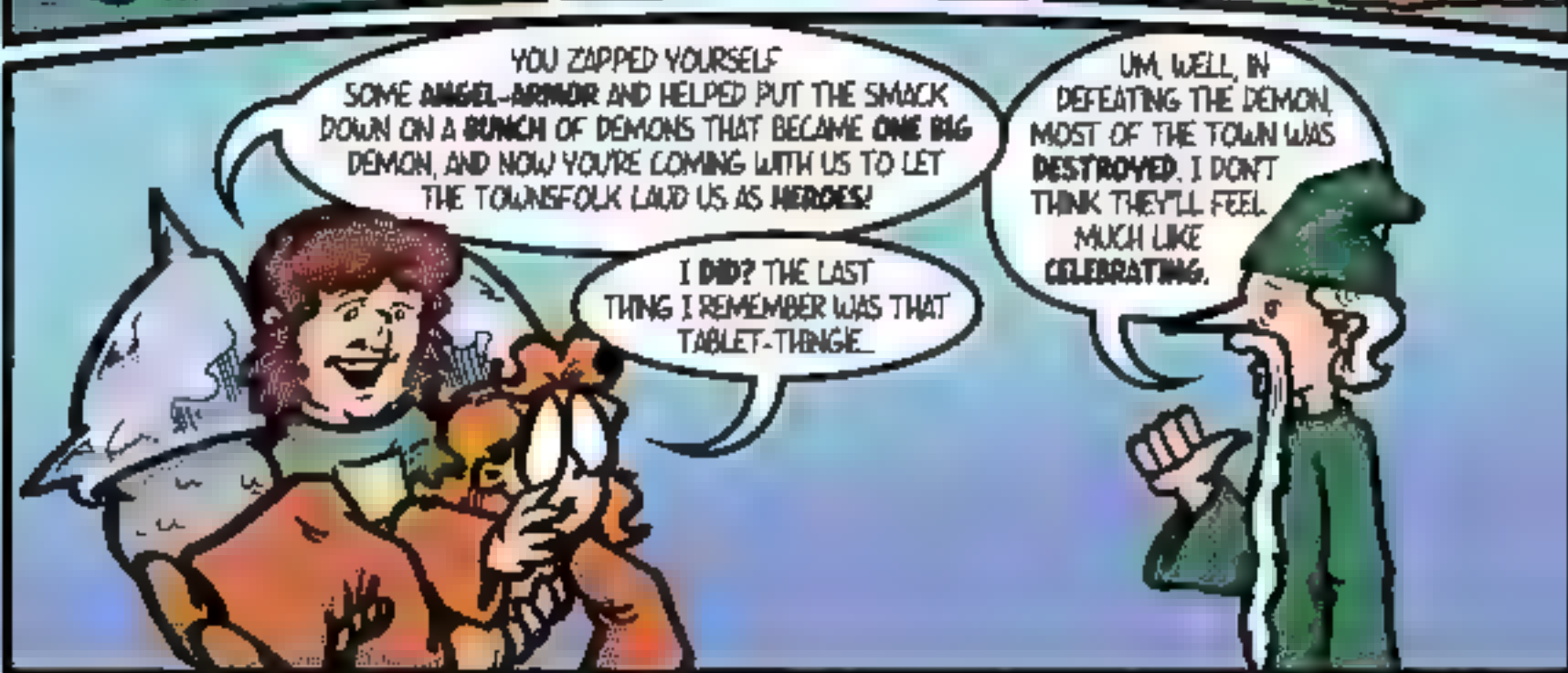
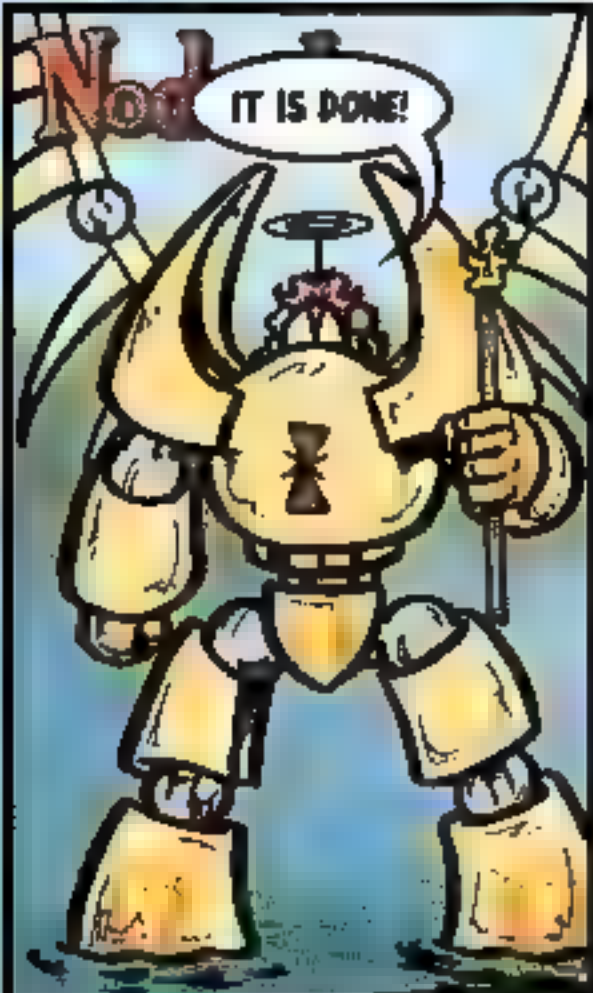
YOU DIDN'T.

I COULDN'T HELP IT! IT WAS LIKE A PRIMAL URGE OR SOMETHING!

THE CHEST WASN'T THAT GREAT, BUT WE'VE GOT MONEY FOR LUNCH NOW!





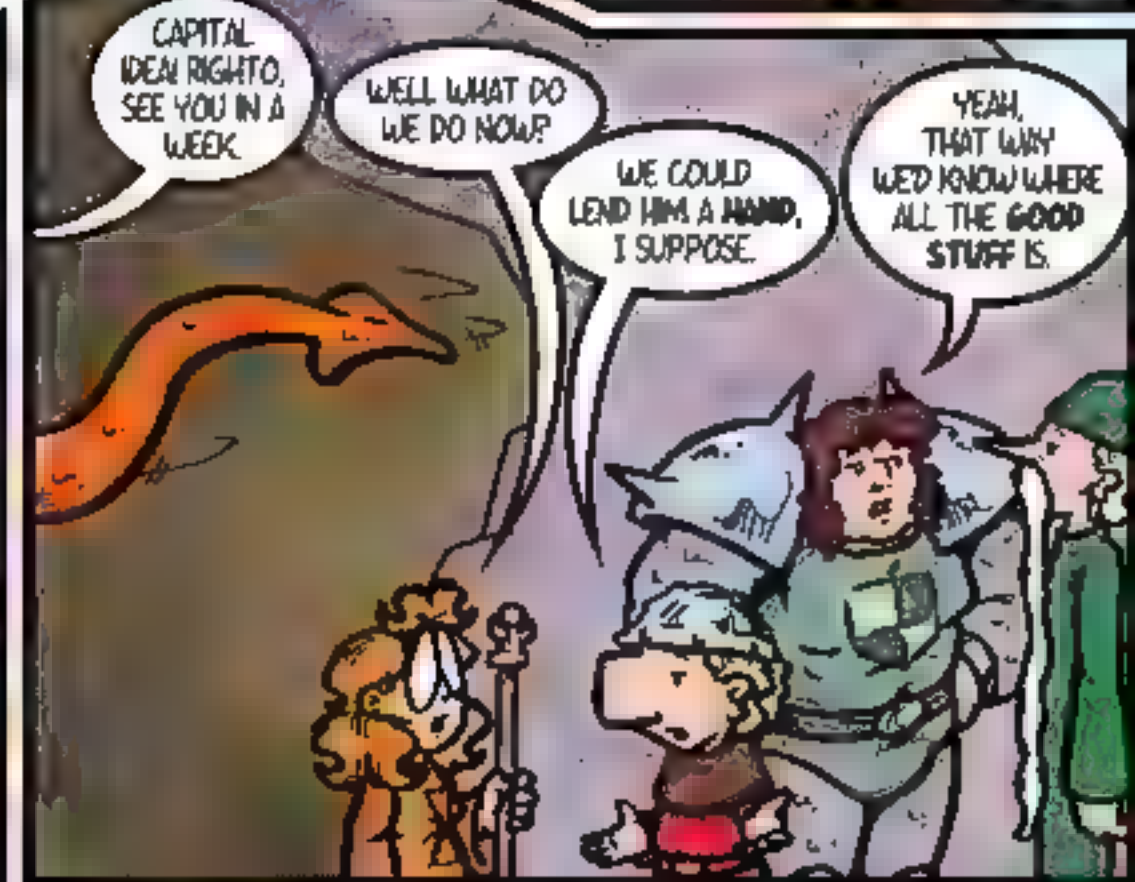


OH! HOW DID THE LITTLE FISHES IN THE LAKE GET HALOS?

IT'S A LONG STORY. I'LL TELL YOU ON THE WAY TO THE PUBLIC EXECUTION.



# Nodwick





# Nodwick

LEGEND SAYS THAT THIS PIT HAS NO END, AT LEAST, NOT ON THIS PLANE OF EXISTENCE.

OOOOOH.

BALONEY. IT'S GOT TO HAVE A BOTTOM.

WELL, THERE'S NO REAL WAY TO FIND OUT.

BEWARE!  
The Olde Bottomless Pit

WRONG.

PUSH!

YEAGAR!

IT WAS FOR SCIENCE. BESIDES, I'LL BET THE PIT IS BOGUS.

SEVERAL AUTHORITATIVE SOURCES SAY IT'S WITHOUT A BOTTOM.

AND NOW NODWICK IS GOING TO FALL FOREVER AND EVER!

THUD!

LET'S TAKE STOCK: EVERYONE WAS WRONG EXCEPT FOR ME!

I SHOULD DECLARE A NATIONAL HOLIDAY OR SOMETHING.

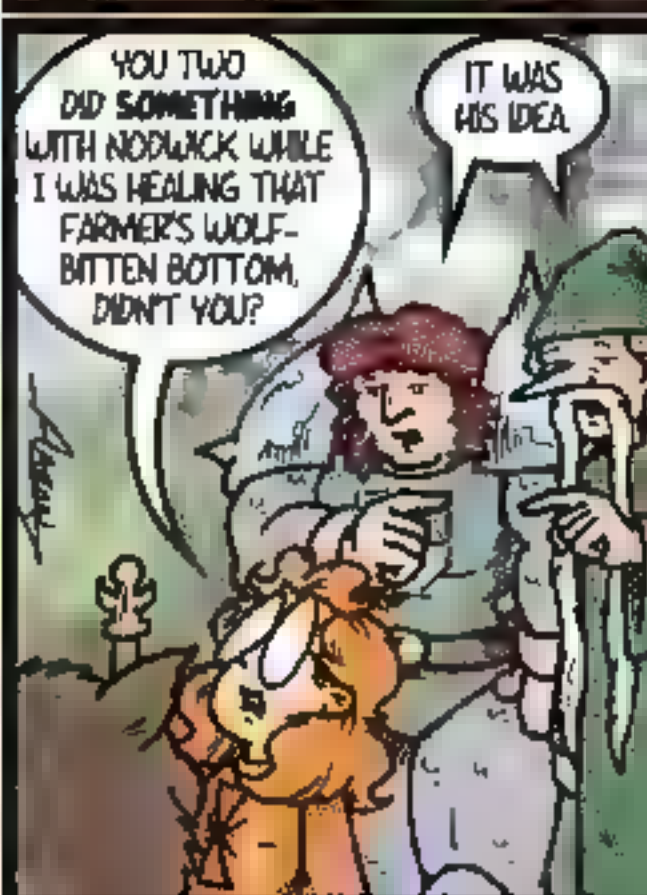
EUREKA.

I SAW THE BOTTOMLESS PIT T-SHIRTS

WHIMPER!

The World's only authentic bottomless pit! Free tours!











**Nachricht**

GOOD AFTERNOON! DO YOU HAVE AN APPOINTMENT?

NO, BUT I SAW YOUR "WALK-INS ARE WELCOME SIGN" AND WAS HOPING...

I CAN FIT YOU IN. I HAD A CANCELLATION AT THE LAST MINUTE.

OH, THAT WAS LUCKY.

NOT REALLY. A CAT WAS INVOLVED.

OH DEAR.

SO WHAT SERVICE DO YOU REQUIRE?

IF I READ YOUR BROCHURE CORRECTLY, I NEED THREE "NUNCUPATORY CONTACTS FOR PURPOSES OF RATRACHIAN DE-CONTINUATION" WHOOO. YOU USE A LOT OF BIG WORDS IN THIS.

SORRY, MY LAWYER DREW UP MY PRICE LIST.

I TAKE IT MY CLIENTS ARE IN THIS BOX?

YES, AND YOUR FEE IS IN THE LITTLE BAG.

THANK YOU. IF YOU'LL WAIT OUTSIDE, I'LL BE THROUGH MOMENTARILY.

THREE SMOOCHES LATER...

I HOPE THIS TEACHES YOU BOYS TO STAY OUT OF THE FOREST WITCH'S PERCH TREE. IF IT HAPPENS AGAIN, I'M JUST KEEPING YOU THREE IN A TERRARIUM.

THREE KISSES COST HOW MUCH?

CONSIDERING THE ALTERNATIVE, I THINK IT WAS WORTH IT.

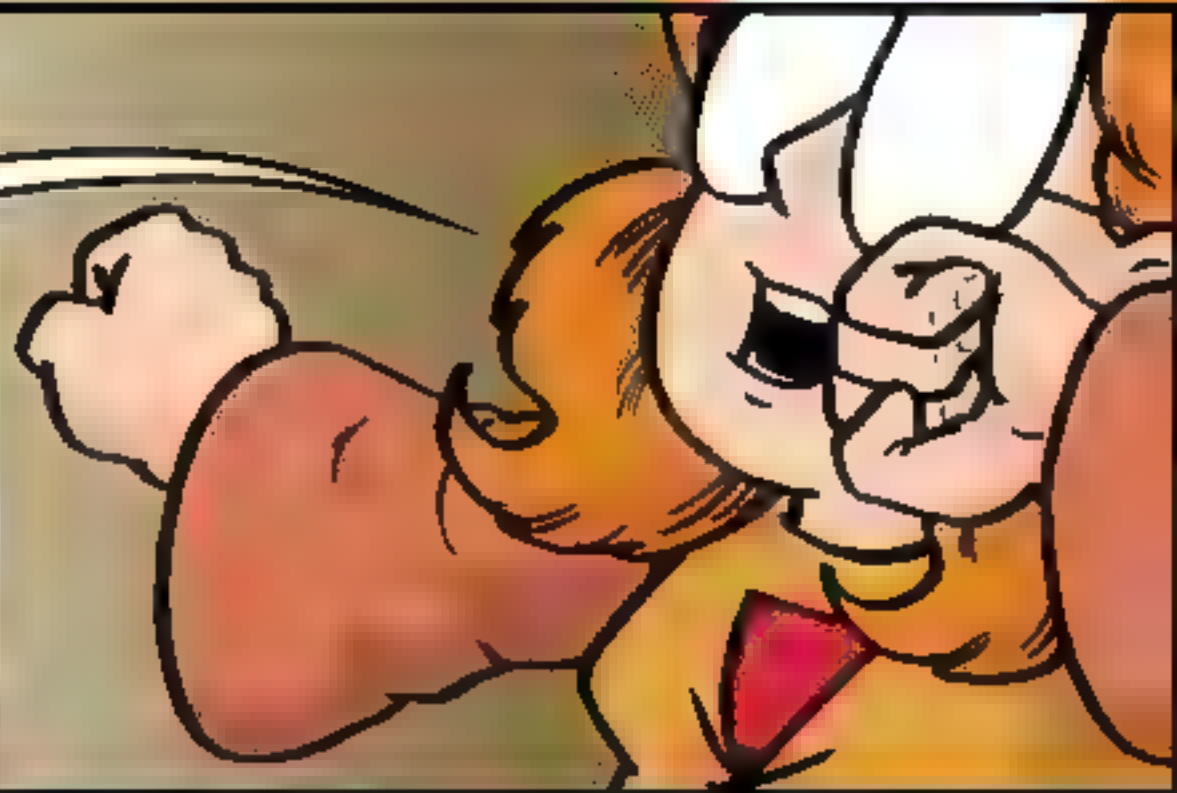
**ANNABELLE PAXGRIFFIN**  
Princess ~ for ~ Hire

Curses Broken  
• Jousting Token Rent  
• Available for Tournaments and Faires  
**NO DRAGONS!**



YAWN

MORNING  
ALREADY? I MUST  
HAVE DOZED OFF LAST  
NIGHT WHEN I WAS SORTING  
MY POKEBEANS  
COLLECTION.

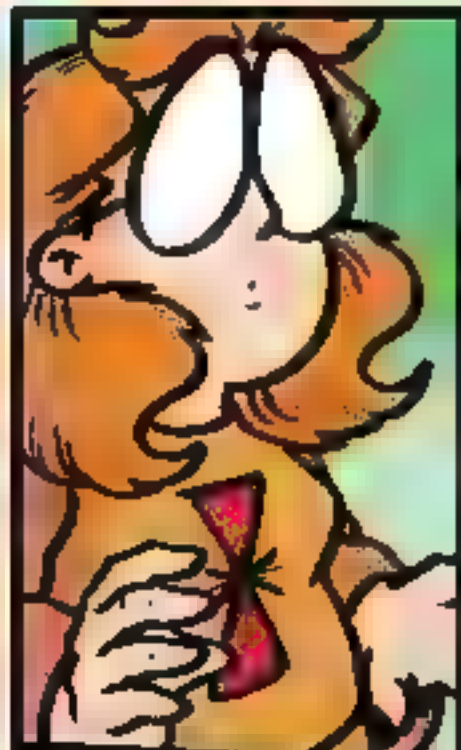


I THINK  
I'LL START THE  
DAY WITH SOME  
BLUEBERRY  
PANCAKES.  
THAT'LL WAKE  
ME UP!



GOOD  
MORNING,  
YEAGARI!

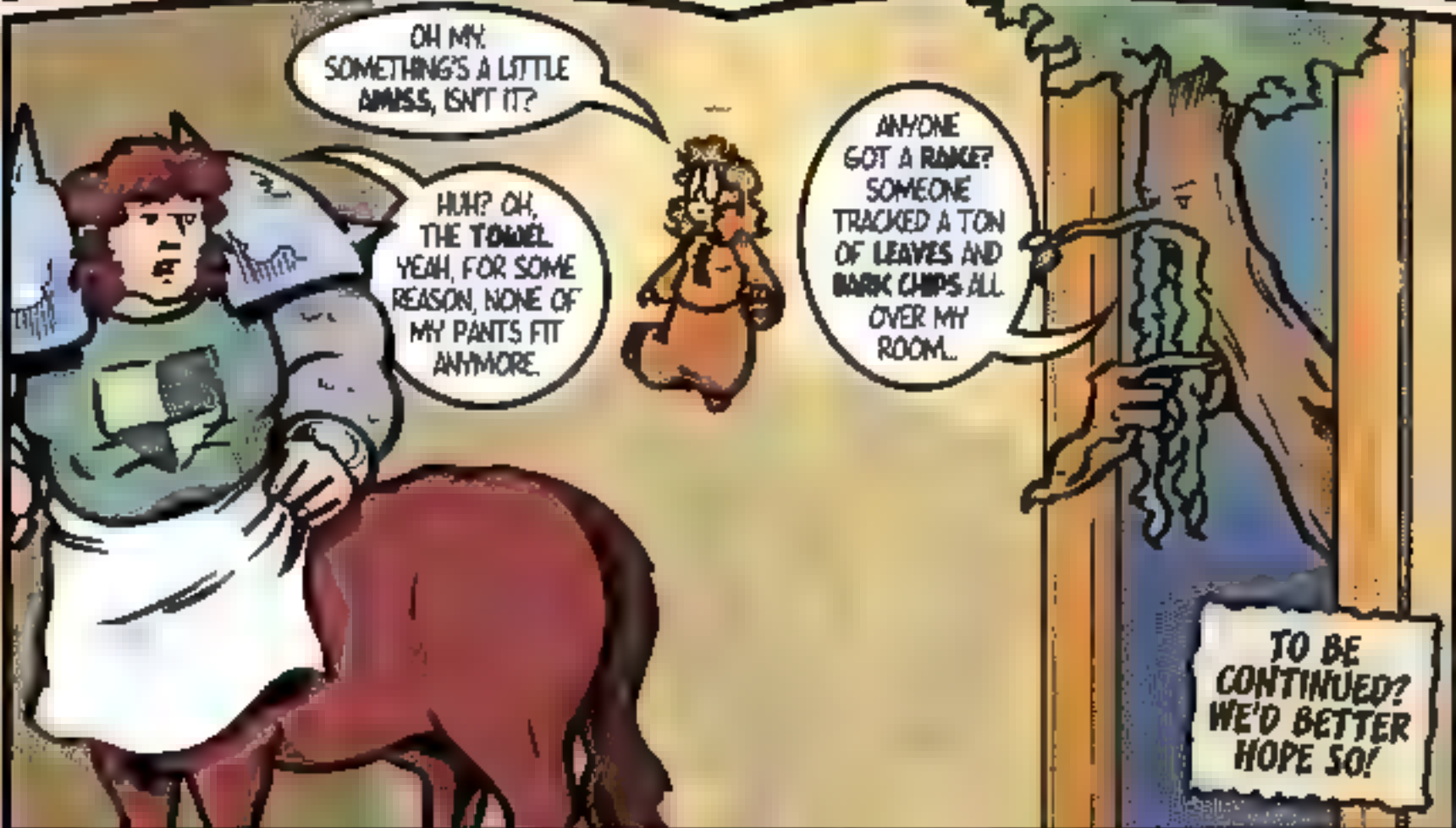
HUH?  
OH, HEY,  
PIE.



OH MY.  
SOMETHING'S A LITTLE  
AMISS, ISN'T IT?

HUH? OH,  
THE TOWEL.  
YEAH, FOR SOME  
REASON, NONE OF  
MY PANTS FIT  
ANYMORE.

ANYONE  
GOT A RAKE?  
SOMEONE  
TRACKED A TON  
OF LEAVES AND  
BARK CHIPS ALL  
OVER MY ROOM.



TO BE  
CONTINUED?  
WE'D BETTER  
HOPE SO!



# Nodwick

YOU'RE LOOKIN' A LITTLE WOODEN THERE, BUDDY.

JUST DON'T START EATING THE LAWN.

WHAT'S GOING ON, PIFTANY?

I WISH I KNEW. I THINK WE JUST WOKE UP LIKE THIS.

HEY, WHERE'S THAT OTHER GUY WHO HANGS AROUND HERE?

NODWICK? ISN'T HE IN HIS ROOM?

I'M AFRAID TO MOVE.

OH, DEAR.

LIKE THIS IS FAIR. HE CAN PROBABLY BREATHE FIRE. WHAT CAN I DO? GIVE HAYRIDES.

NO, JUST GLUE.

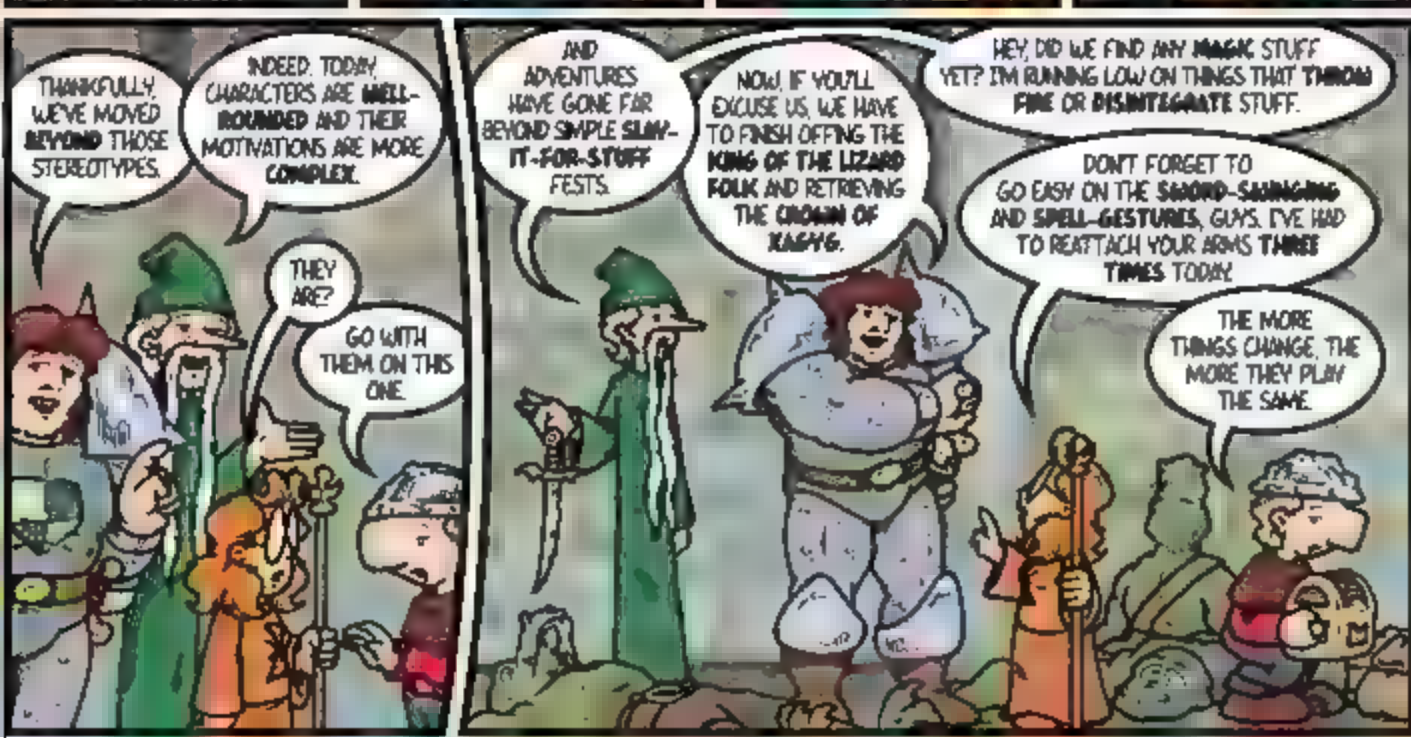
AT LEAST YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT GETTING TURNED INTO AN ARMOUR.

TOUCHÉ





FOR ONE, CHARACTER TRAITS WERENT VERY DEEP. THE FACT THAT THEY WERE ALMOST ALWAYS MALE IS PURELY COINCIDENTAL.





**Nadwick**

THAT WALL IS  
COMING OUT OF  
YOUR SALARY.

NEVER MIND THE  
WALL. WE'RE GOING TO HAVE A HARD  
TIME EXPLAINING OURSELVES TO THE  
REST OF THE TOWN.

I DON'T  
THINK THAT'LL BE A  
PROBLEM, GUYS.

LOOKS LIKE  
EVERYONE GOT A  
DOSE OF WHATEVER  
CHANGED US.

YOU DIDN'T HAVE  
ANOTHER 'ACCIDENT'  
IN YOUR LAB, DID YOU,  
MAGIC-BOY?

WELL, NOT RECENTLY.  
AND THE LAST ONE JUST TURNED  
ME PURPLE FOR A WEEK INSTEAD  
OF GIVING ME FOLIAGE.

WHAT  
ABOUT HER?

GATHER AROUND, MY  
CHILDREN. THERE IS MUCH YOU  
MUST KNOW BEFORE YOU BEGIN  
YOUR NEW LIVES. COME CLOSER,  
DON'T SHY AWAY...

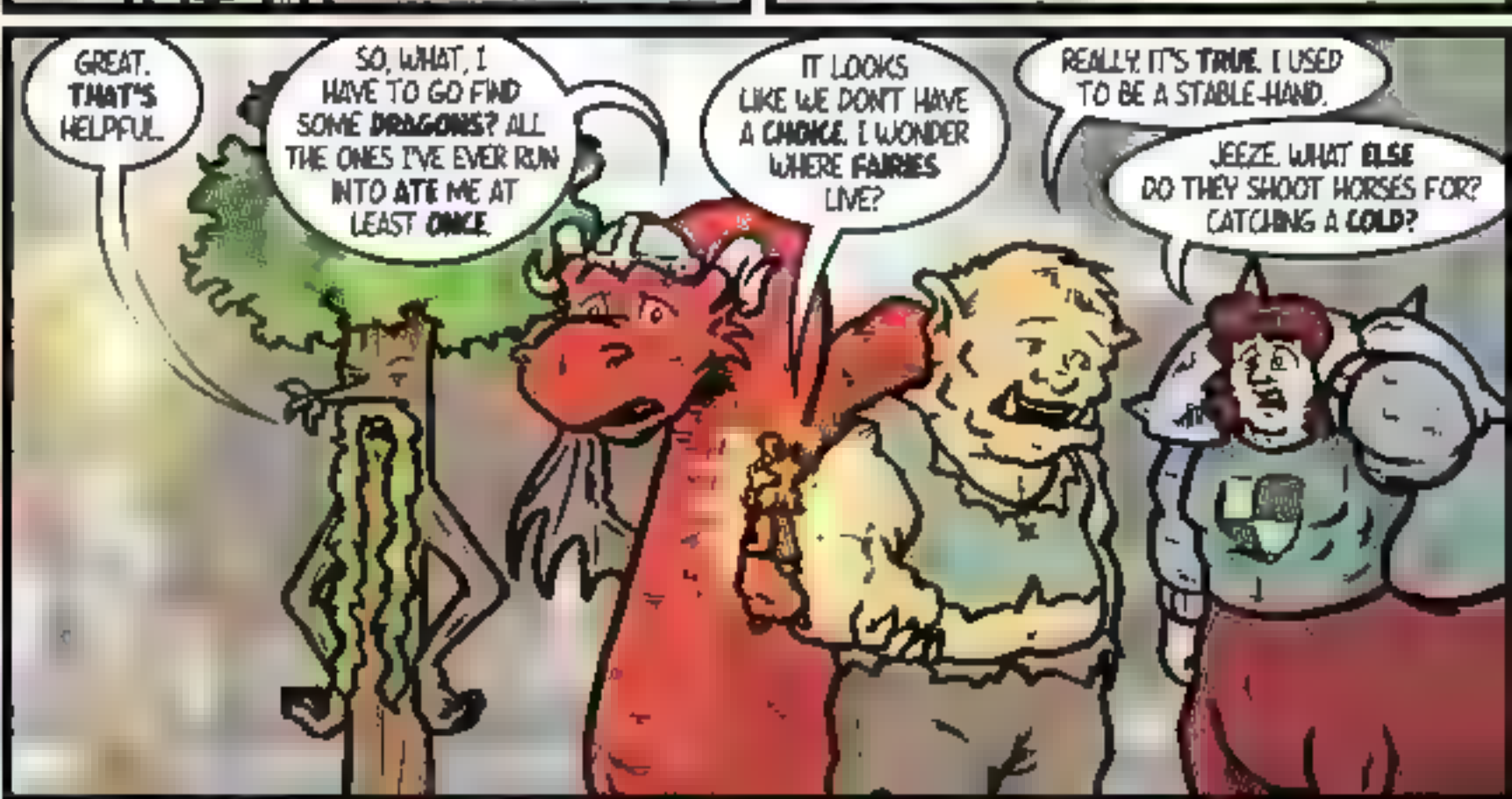
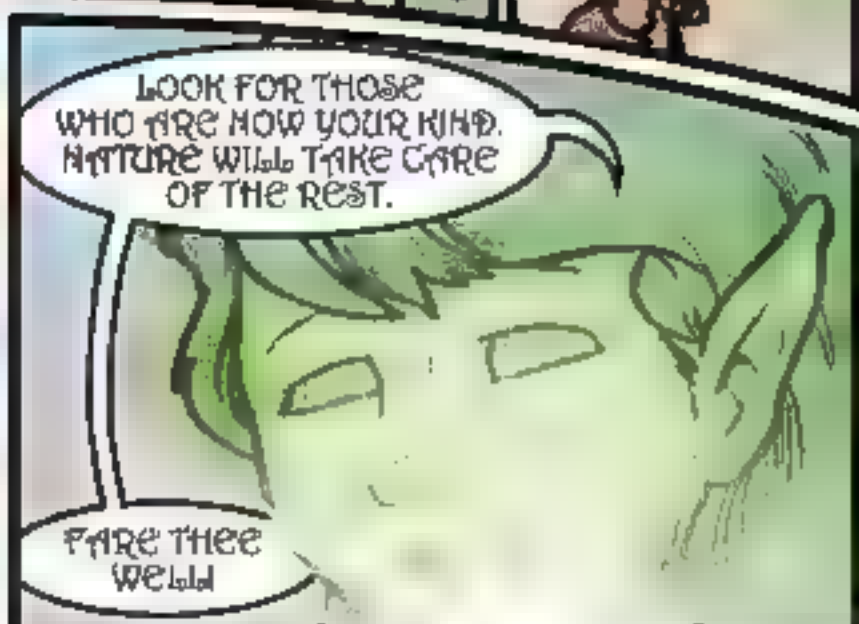
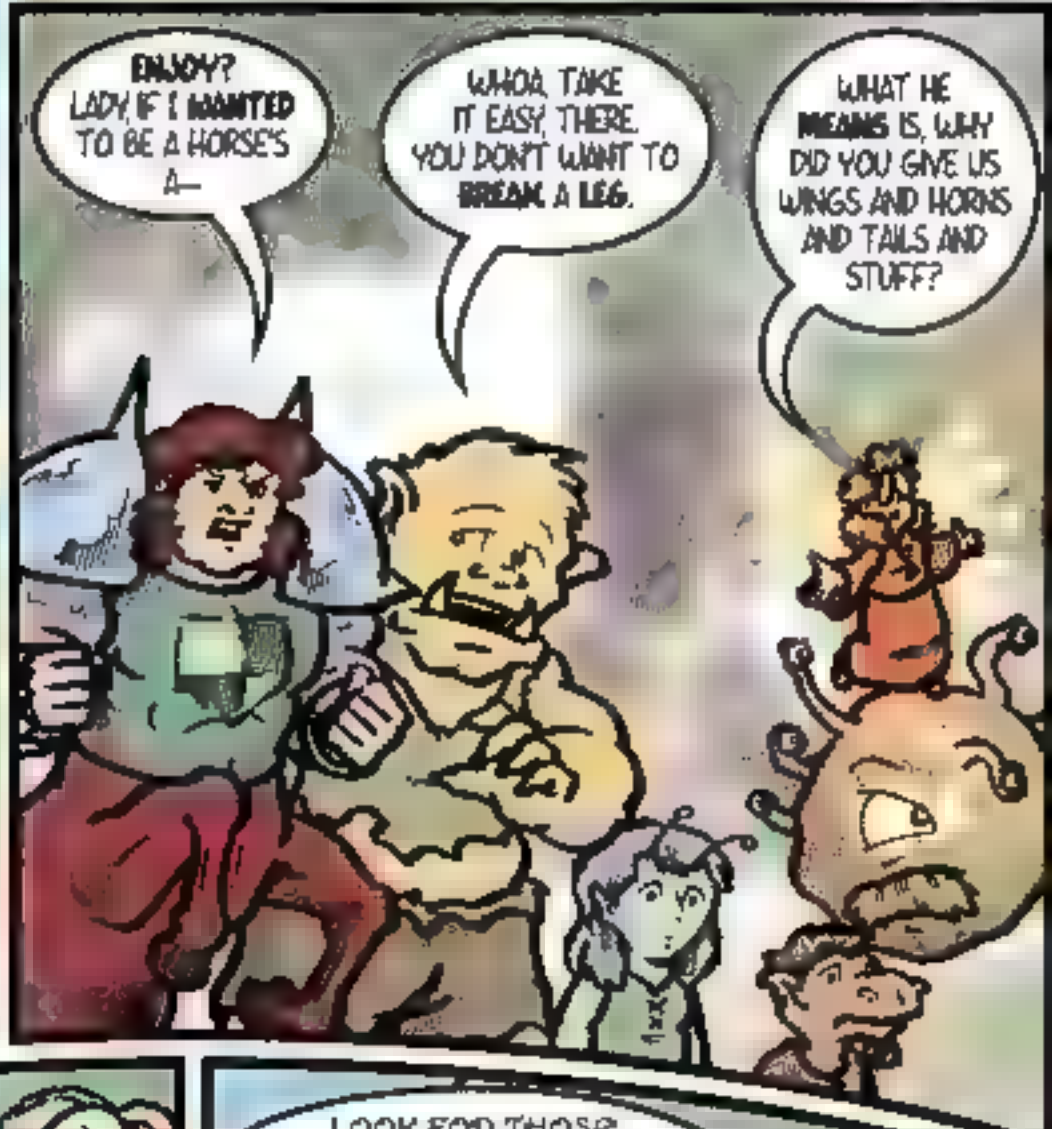
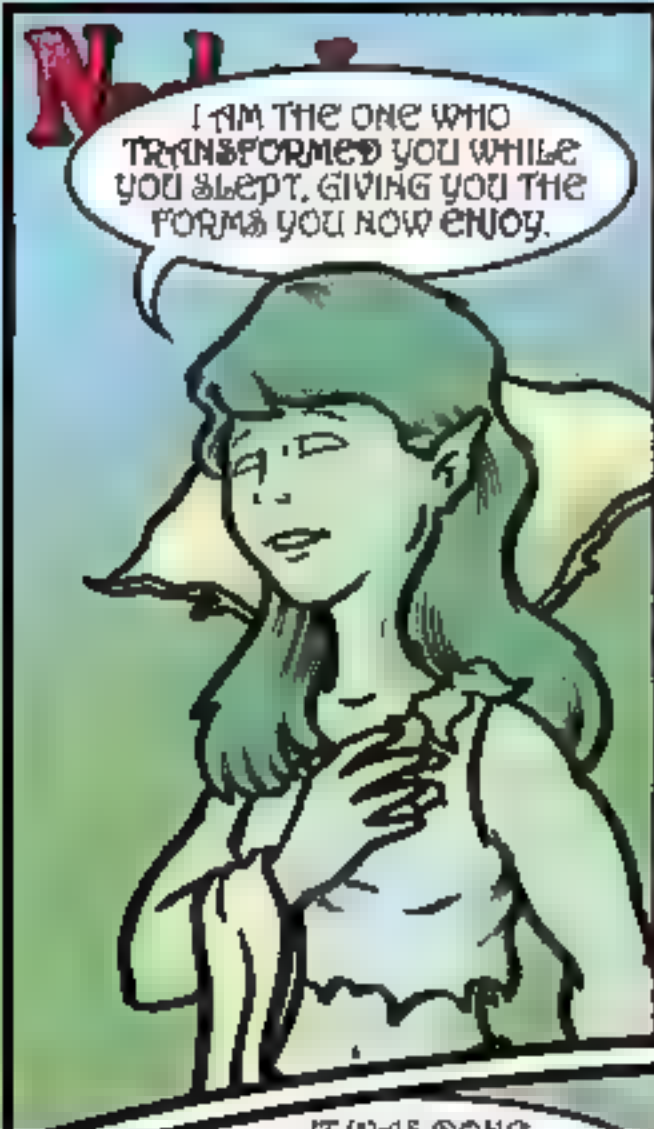
LOOKS LIKE A  
CLUE TO ME.

"CHILDREN?"  
WHY DOES EVERY  
MOM I HAVE MAKE  
LIFE DIFFICULT  
FOR ME?

WHO IS SHE?

I THINK  
WE CAN CROSS  
'INNOCENT TOURIST'  
OFF THE LIST...







# Nodwick

GREETINGS,  
CHILDREN OF MAGIC,  
CHILDREN OF MYTH,  
CHILDREN OF--

I THINK YOU  
MEAN FORMER HUMANS,  
RIGHT?

AS YOU  
WISH, WE  
ARE HERE TO  
GUIDE  
YOU.



GUIDE US  
WHERE?

TO YOUR  
NEW PEOPLE, YOUR  
NEW CLANS. THERE IS  
ONE OF US FOR EACH OF  
YOU, AND YOU WILL  
FOLLOW US TO THOSE  
WHO ARE NOW YOUR  
KIN.

WE  
HAVE TO LEAVE  
OUR HOMES?

THIS ISN'T  
YOUR HOME ANY MORE.  
COME... FOLLOW...



MEANWHILE...

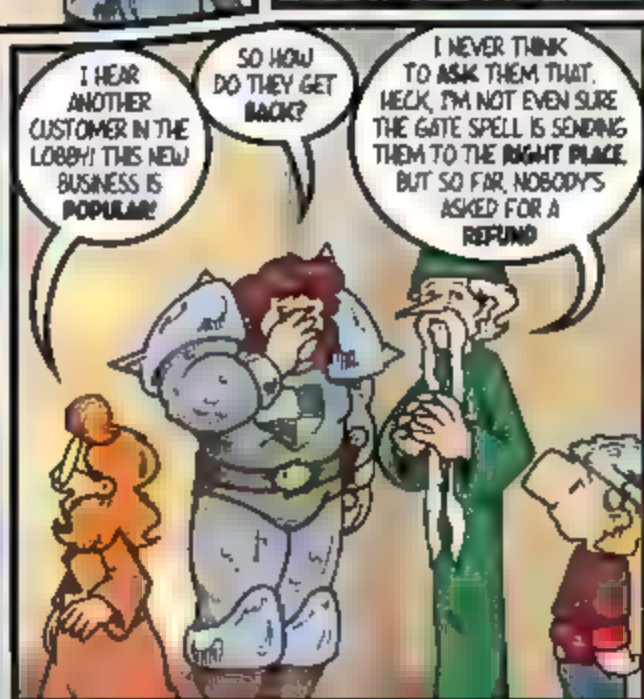
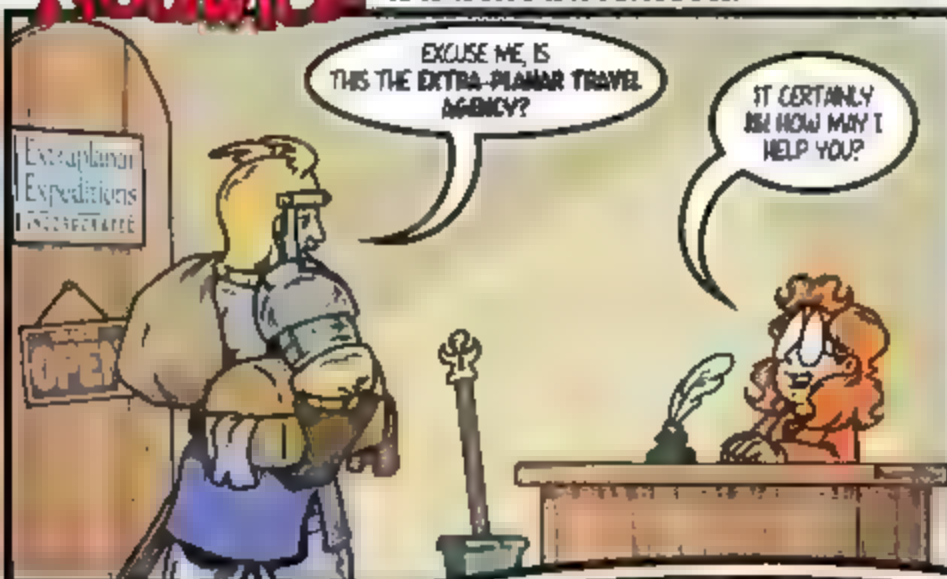
COME ON, NOW.  
WE'VE GOT A LONG WALK  
AHEAD OF US.

I'LL GIVE  
YOU A COOKIE  
IF YOU COME  
OUT, OKAY?

NO FREAKIN' WAY!  
I COULD GET A SPLINTER OR STUB A  
HOOF, AND WHAMMO! OFF TO THE GLUE  
FACTORY! FORGET IT!





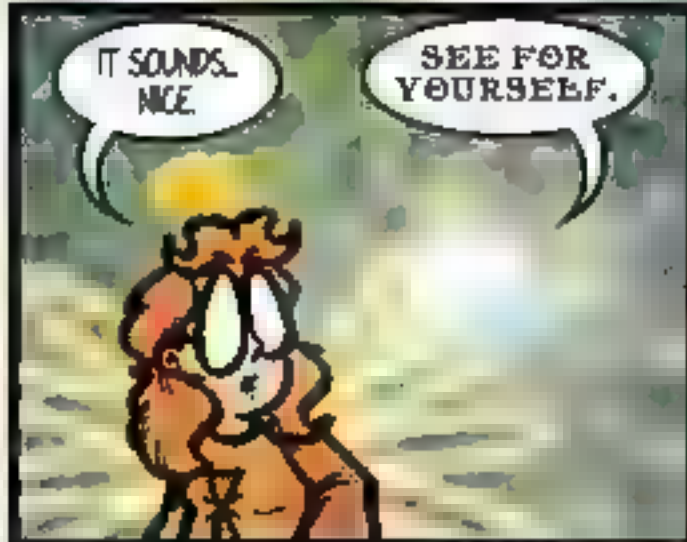






WHERE ARE WE GOING?

TO THE GROTTTO OF THE FAIRIES. IT WILL BE YOUR NEW HOME.



IT SOUNDS NICE.

SEE FOR YOURSELF.



ODDOOH, HOW PRETTY!

AH, ANOTHER FORMER HUMAN, EH?



HI! I'M--

CHARMED AND ENCHANTED, I KNOW. WELCOME. I'M YOUR KING, OBRODEON!



OH, NICE TO MEET YOU, I GUESS.

YOU PLEASE ME. I WILL HAVE YOU ADDED TO MY COLLECTION OF WIVES.

SEE TO IT, KELTINKER.

AT ONCE, MY LORD.



WHAT JUST HAPPENED?

FAIRIES ARE CREATURES OF THE MOMENT, MYLADY, AND AT THE MOMENT, YOU'RE BETROTHED. ALL HAIL THE ONCE AND FUTURE QUEEN NUMBER SEVEN HUNDRED AND TWENTY-TWO.



# Nodwick

AND HERE IS WHERE YOU'LL BE LIVING WITH YOUR PEOPLE.

WHAT PEOPLE? OTHER TREES?

WELL... ENTS ARE USUALLY SOLITARY CREATURES. HOWEVER, ONE VOLUNTEERED TO HELP GET YOU STARTED ON YOUR NEW LIFE. GOOD LUCK.

HEY! COME BACK HERE!

HELLO.

EH?

AH! YOU'RE MY VOLUNTEER GUIDE INTO THE WORLD OF... BEING LEAFY?

I DIDN'T VOLUNTEER, REALLY.

THEN WHY DID THE ENTS SEND YOU?

THEY SAY I TALK TOO MUCH.



**Notwick**

AND  
HERE'S  
YOUR NEW  
HOME.  
HAVE  
FUN.

WHAT?  
THAT'S ALL  
THE HELP I  
GET?

WELL, NOT  
ENTIRELY. WE LEFT  
YOU SOMEONE TO  
DEMONSTRATE HOW TO  
BE A PROPER DRAGON.  
FAREWELL!

HEY! I  
DONT—

—EVEN  
KNOW WHAT TO  
EAT. SIGH.

NORMALLY,  
YOU'D GO OUT AND DEVOUR  
SOME POOR FARMER'S  
CATTLE.

BUT THEN AGAIN, MOST  
OF THE FARMERS AROUND HERE ARE PROBABLY  
SOMETHING OTHER THAN HUMAN BY NOW, SO  
I GUESS IT DOESN'T MATTER.

AH! SO... YOU'RE  
GOING TO BE MY EXPERT ON ALL  
THINGS DRAGON?

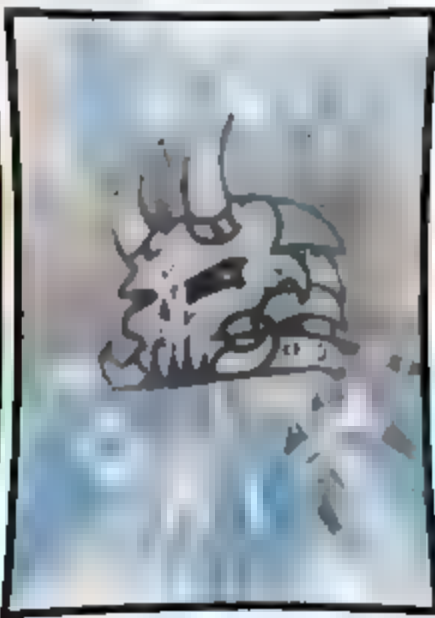
YES. MY  
NAME IS PHILOCLIA, BUT  
I HAVEN'T ALWAYS BEEN  
A DRAGON.

THEN HOW  
DO YOU KNOW WHAT  
DRAGONS ARE SUPPOSED  
TO DO WITH  
THEMSELVES?

I WAS A PRINCESS  
YESTERDAY.

NOW THAT'S  
IRONY...

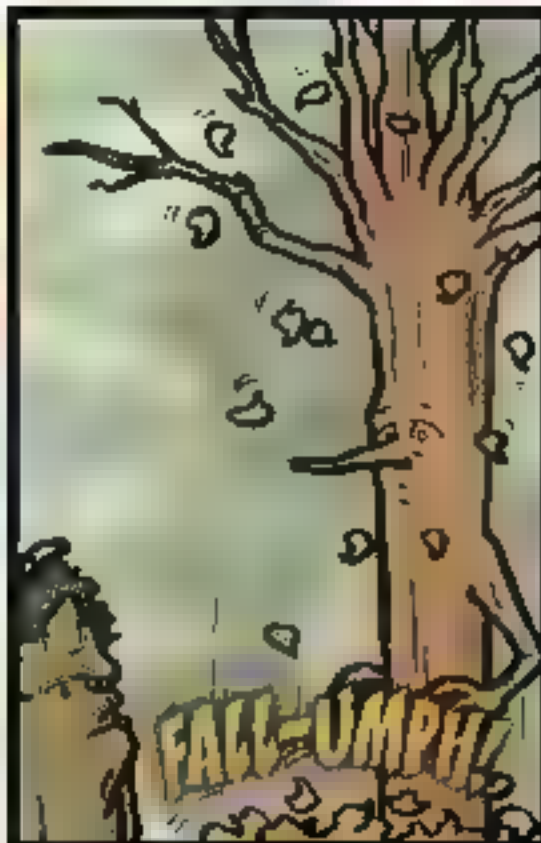
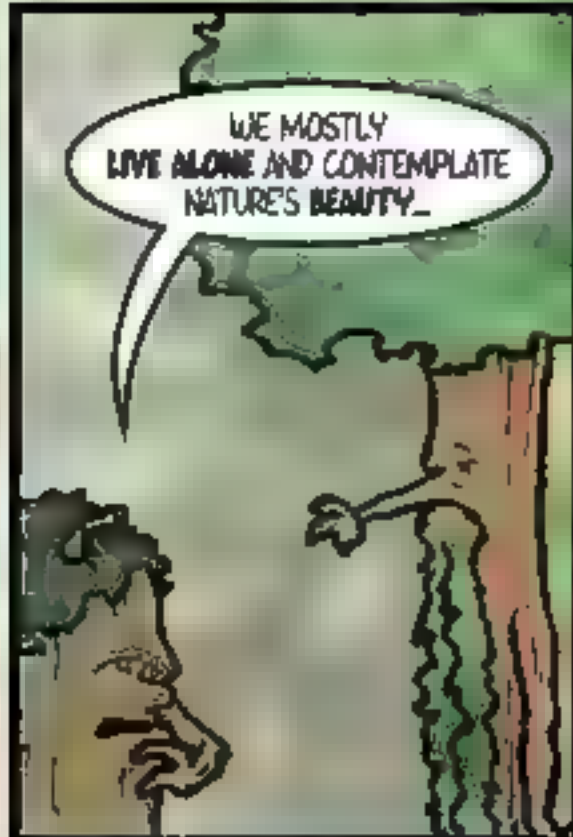














# Nodwick

SO, PHYLICIA,  
WHY AREN'T WE BEING COACHED  
BY REAL DRAGONS?

WELL, NODWICK, FOR  
THE MOST PART, DRAGONS ARE  
**SOLITARY** CREATURES. VIOLENTLY  
SO A LOT OF THE TIME.

REALLY? WHY?

OTHER THAN THE  
ARROGANCE, GREED, AND FIERCE  
INDEPENDENCE, THERE'S ALSO THE FOOD SUPPLY TO  
CONSIDER. EVENTUALLY, WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO EAT  
SOMETHING, AND DRAGONS NEED A LOT  
OF HUNTING TERRITORY  
TO STAY FED.

YEAH, I'M  
STARTING TO GET PRETTY  
HUNGRY.

HUNGER CAN  
OFTEN CAUSE BORDERLINE  
MADNESS IN DRAGONS. THEY'LL OFTEN  
GOBBLE UP WHATEVER'S HANDY  
IF THEY CAN.

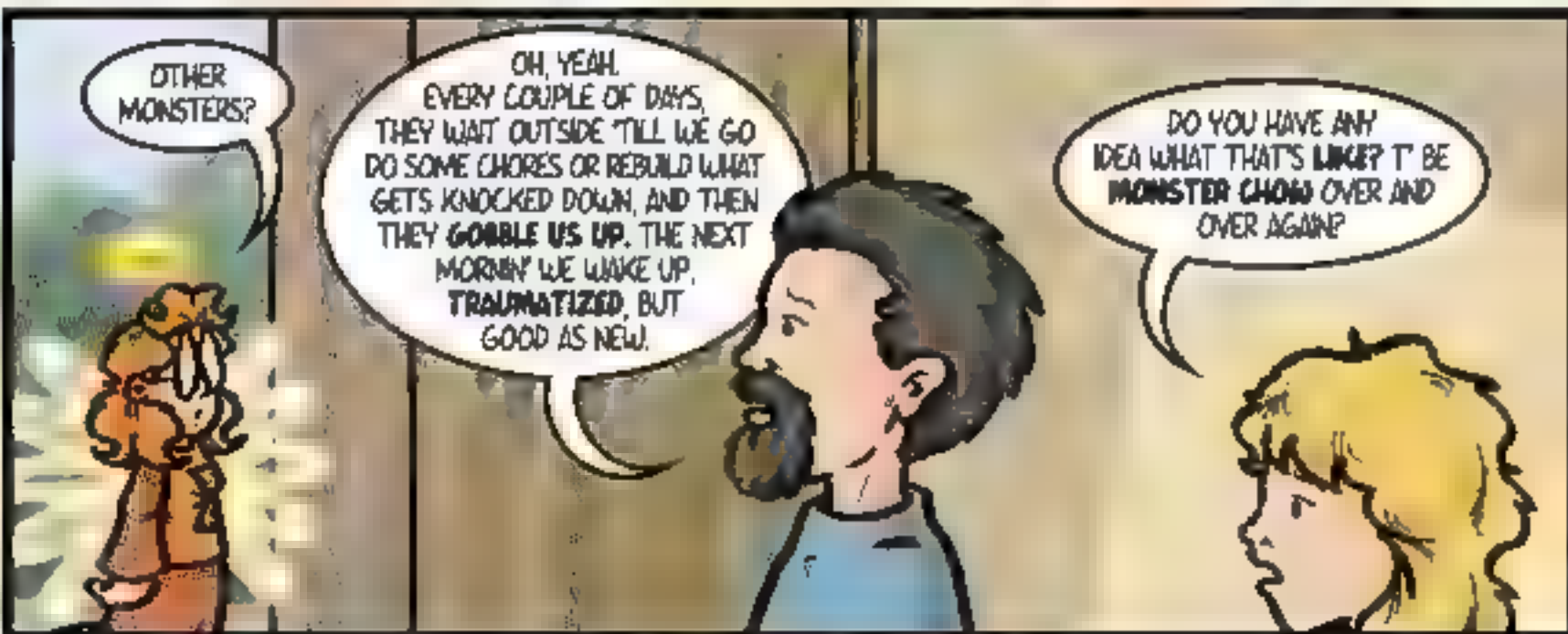
SNEE!  
SNEE!

CHOMP!  
SNARE!  
WHORF!  
SCHLURP!

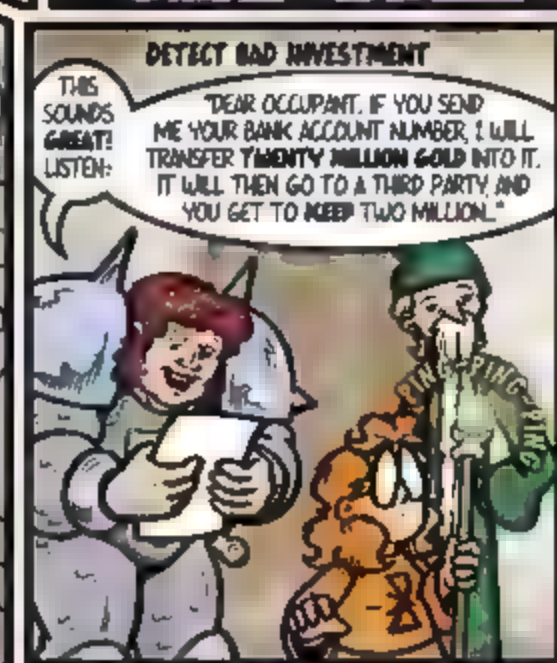
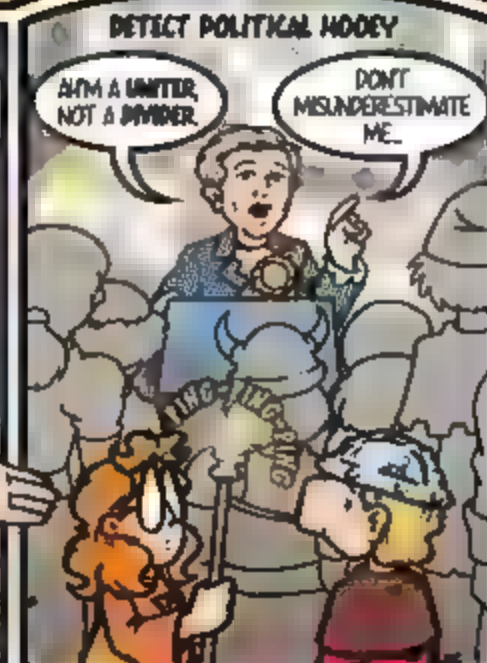
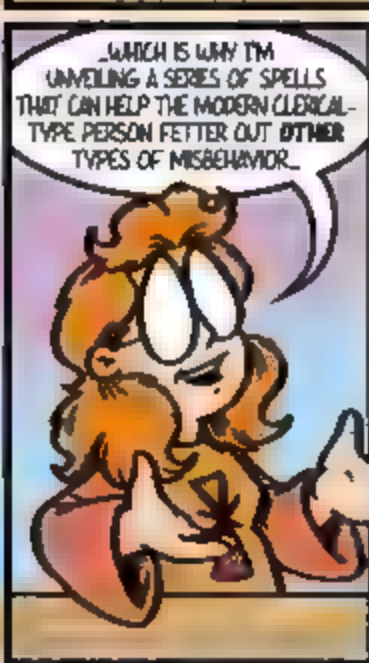
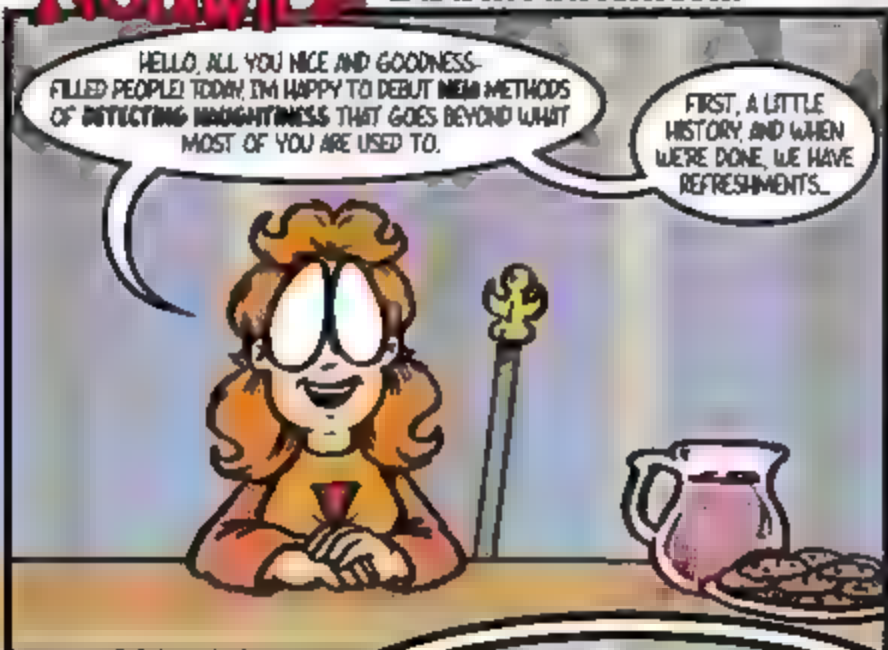
I THINK I JUST  
SCARFED A TREE FULL OF  
SQUIRRELS.

YEAH, WELL, I  
KIND OF PUT A BIG DENT IN THE  
PIGEON POPULATION BEFORE  
YOU GOT HERE.











THIS IS AN  
ODD-LOOKING  
FOREST.

IT'S CALLED A  
"TOWN," EVEN ABANDONED.  
IT'S A PARTY THAT NEVER STOPS  
COMPARED TO WHERE YOU  
HANG YOUR LEAVES.

RATHER THAN WAITING A  
WEEK FOR YOU TO ASK WHY WE'RE HERE,  
I'LL TELL YOU: I'D RATHER DEVOTE MY TIME TO FINDING A  
SPELL TO REVERSE WHAT HAPPENED TO ME THAN SPEND  
ANOTHER DAY DRINKING THROUGH MY FEET AND CONVERTING  
SUNLIGHT INTO FOOD. AND WHO'S BRIGHT  
IDEA WAS IT TO MAKE ME AN APPLE  
TREE, ANYWAY?

I HOPE ALL OF  
MY POTION COMPONENTS ARE  
STILL... YEAGAR?

THANK  
GOODNESS YOU'VE  
COME. TALK SOME SENSE  
INTO YOUR FRIEND, HERE.  
MAKE HIM FOLLOW ME TO HIS  
NEW PEOPLE BEFORE HE  
STARVES TO DEATH IN  
WHAT HE CALLS HIS  
"FORT."

YOU'VE  
BEEN HERE  
THIS WHOLE  
TIME?

YOU DON'T  
UNDERSTAND! ONE  
BAD FALL AND I'M  
A GOMER! I'D BE  
MADE INTO—

UH, DON'T TAKE  
THIS THE WRONG WAY, BUT YOU  
SMELL DELICIOUS.

HERE, I'VE  
BEEN THROWING THEM  
AWAY, ANYHOW.

AND YOU  
WERE OF NO HELP  
WHATSOEVER,  
MADAM.

SORRY, BUT  
I'M IN A HURRY AND THIS  
THING'S NOT GETTING ANY  
LIGHTER.



# Nodwick

I DON'T KNOW  
IF I LIKE THIS, BEING A SLAVE  
TO MY STOMACH.

WELL, WE DO  
HAVE A LOT OF "US" TO  
SUPPORT. THINGS AS BIG AS  
WE ARE EAT A LOT  
OF FOOD.

YES BUT...  
OH! WHAT'S THAT  
SMELL?

SMELL?

IT'S LIKE A DELICATE  
BLEND OF SPICY PLANTS AND  
SOMETHING COOKING SLOWLY  
OVER FRUIT-WOOD.

OH! A  
DRAGON THAT  
HELD ME CAPTIVE  
DESCRIBED PEOPLE  
SMELLING LIKE  
THAT.

PEOPLE?  
HOW CAN  
THAT BE?

I HEARD  
RUMORS THAT  
THERE WERE STILL  
SOME HUMANS LEFT  
FOR A FEW OF THE FOREST  
CREATURES TO TORMENT.  
PERHAPS WE  
CAN FIND THEM  
OURSELVES!

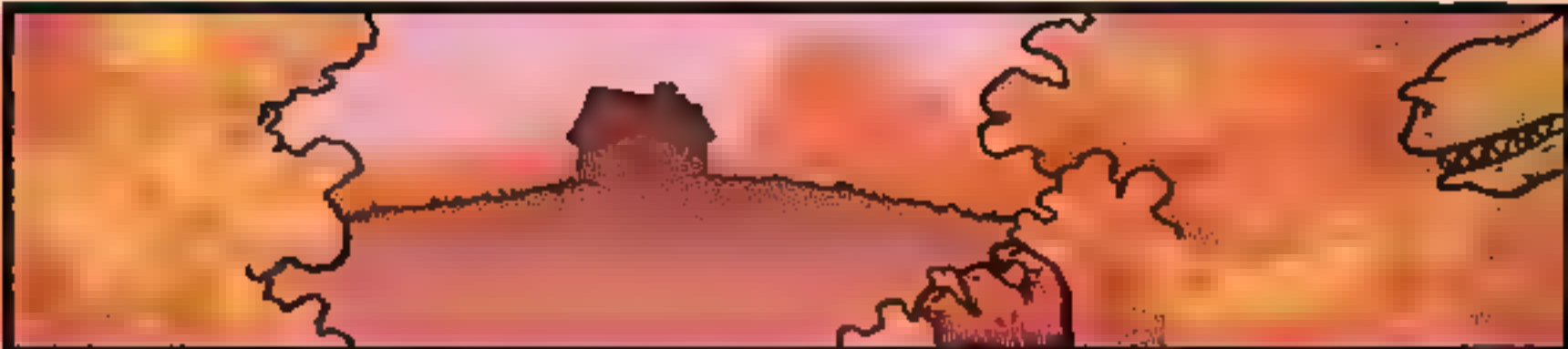
WAIT, LISTEN  
TO US! WE'RE TURNING  
INTO MONSTERS! DON'T  
FORGET WE USED TO BE  
HUMAN, AFTER ALL!

WE CAN'T  
FORGET THE THINGS  
THAT MADE US WHAT WE WERE.  
THE MOST IMPORTANT  
ONE BEING...

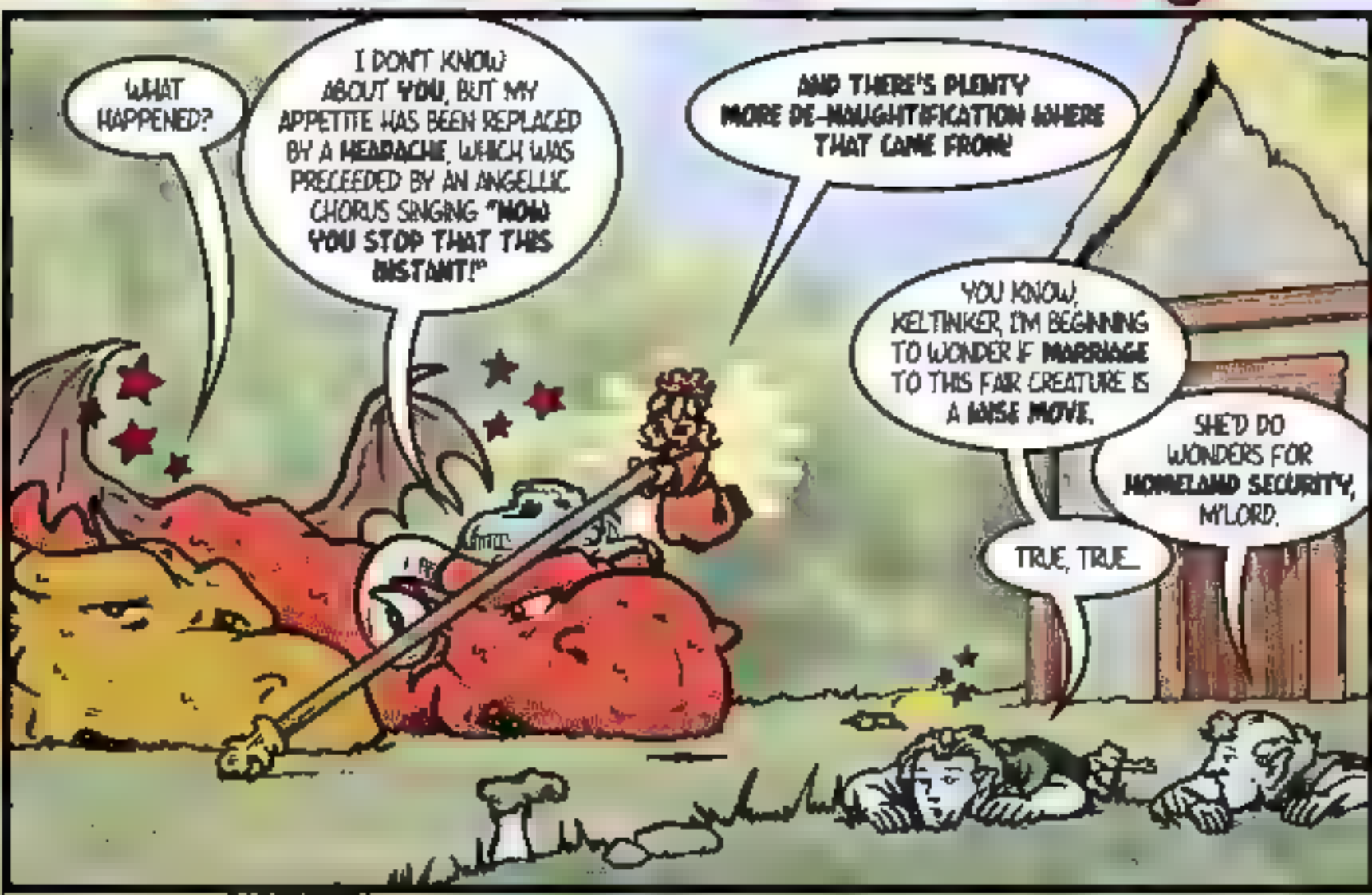
...THAT WE WERE  
DELICIOUS!



# Nodwick



## WALLOP! WALLOP!



WHAT  
HAPPENED?

I DON'T KNOW  
ABOUT YOU, BUT MY  
APPETITE HAS BEEN REPLACED  
BY A HEADACHE, WHICH WAS  
PRECEDED BY AN ANGELIC  
CHORUS SINGING "NOW  
YOU STOP THAT THIS  
INSTANT!"

AND THERE'S PLENTY  
MORE DE-NAUGHTIFICATION WHERE  
THAT CAME FROM

YOU KNOW,  
KELTINKER, I'M BEGINNING  
TO WONDER IF MARRIAGE  
TO THIS FAIR CREATURE IS  
A WISE MOVE.

SHE'D DO  
WONDERS FOR  
HOMELAND SECURITY,  
MY LORD.

TRUE, TRUE







# Northwick

...THEY SIMPLY REFUSE TO BEHAVE IN A FAIRY-LIKE MANNER. THEY QUESTION OUR RITUALS, THEY REFUSE TO MARRY WITHOUT CAUSING INJURIES...



...AND I EAT JUST ABOUT ANYTHING THAT GETS IN FRONT OF ME BEFORE I KNOW I'VE DONE IT. ON THE WAY HERE I DEPOPULATED AN ENTIRE LAKE OF TROUT...



THEY INSIST ON BUILDING HOUSES INSTEAD OF LIVING OFF OF THE LAND! ONE OF THEM EVEN TRIED TO START A FARM! CAN YOU BELIEVE IT?



...AND THEY PICK ON THE ONLY HUMANS LEFT IN THE WORLD AND ARE GENERALLY MEAN IN A FLIGHTY-BRAINED SORT OF WAY.



THEY BATH! HOW CAN YOU EXPECT US TO WELCOME SUCH DEPRIVITY INTO OUR TRIBE?



CONVERSATIONS TAKE WEEKS, AND THEY SENT A REPRESENTATIVE WHO'S CONSIDERED AN OUTCAST FROM HIS OWN KIND!



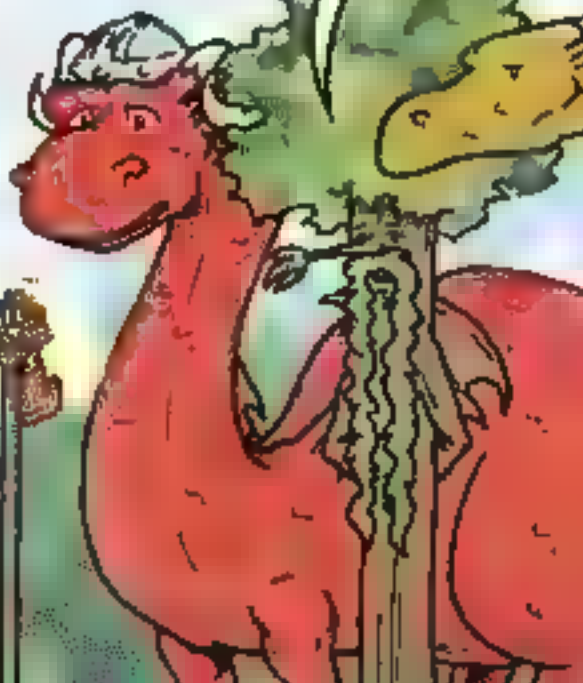
WELL, WELL, CHILDREN OF THE FEY. IT LOOKS LIKE YOUR PLAN TO BE RID OF HUMANS BY SWELLING YOUR OWN RANKS WASN'T THE WISEST OF COURSES AFTER ALL, ETH?



WHEW! I WAS AFRAID THIS WAS ALL SOMEHOW OUR FAULT.

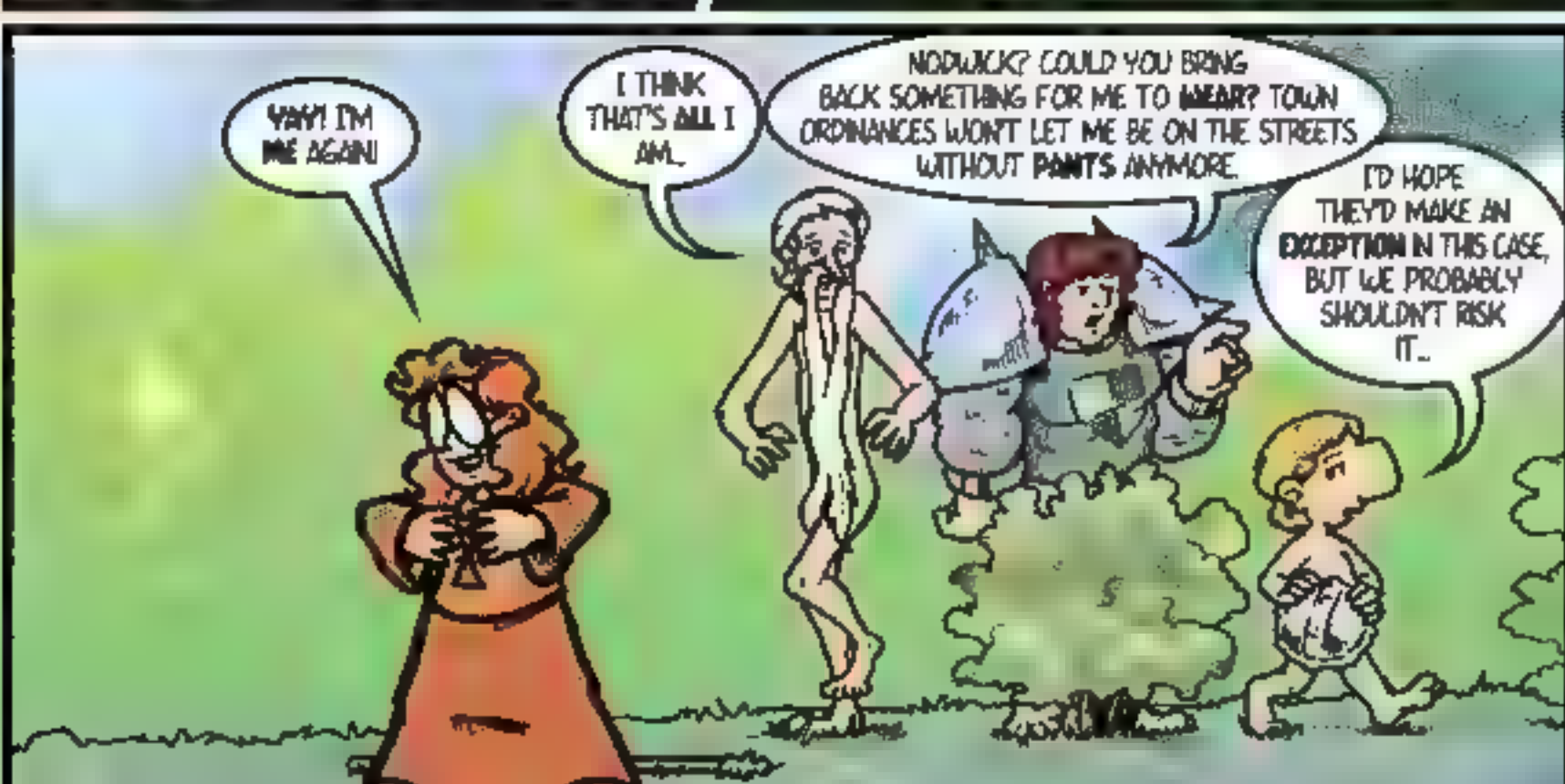
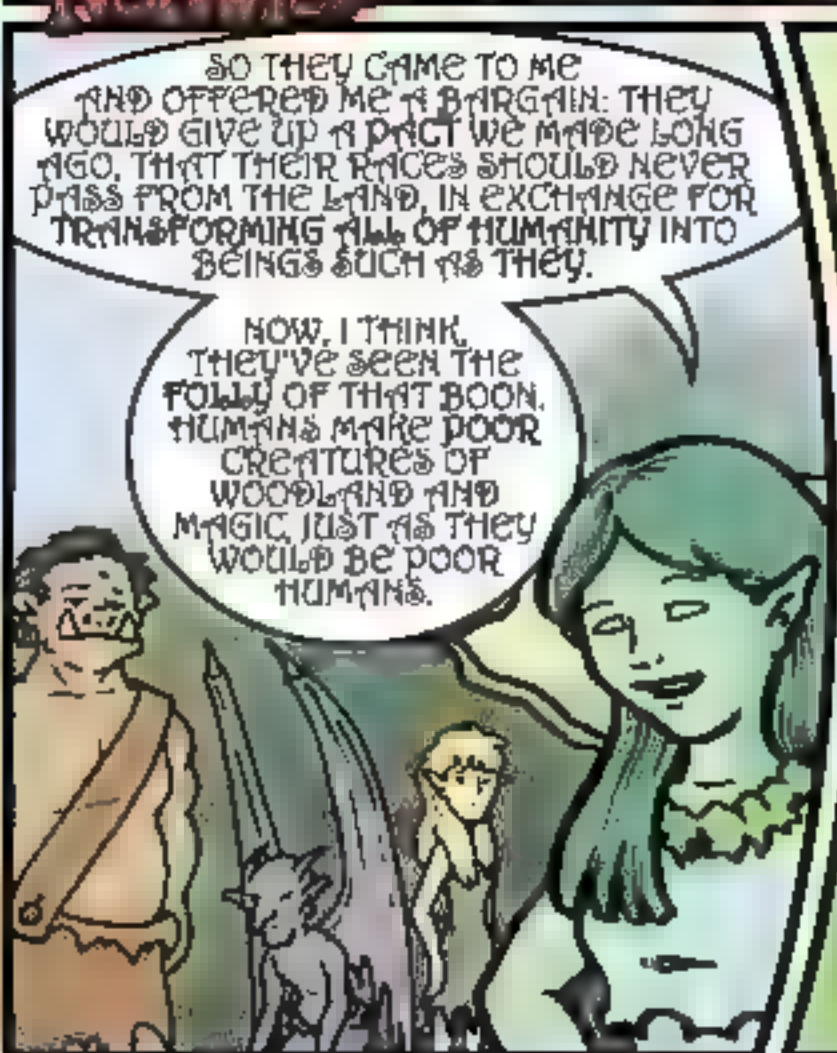
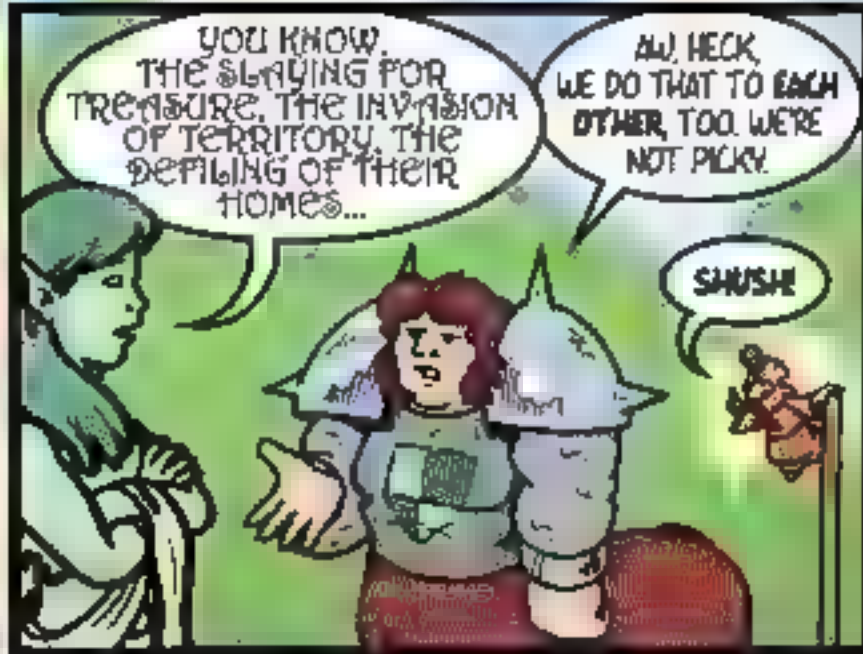
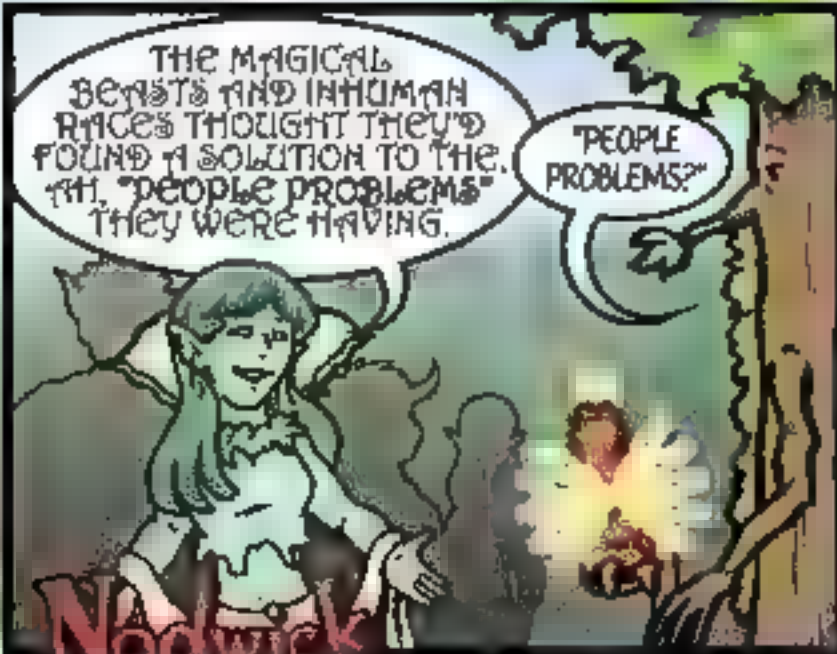


THE THOUGHT HAD CROSSED MY MIND...

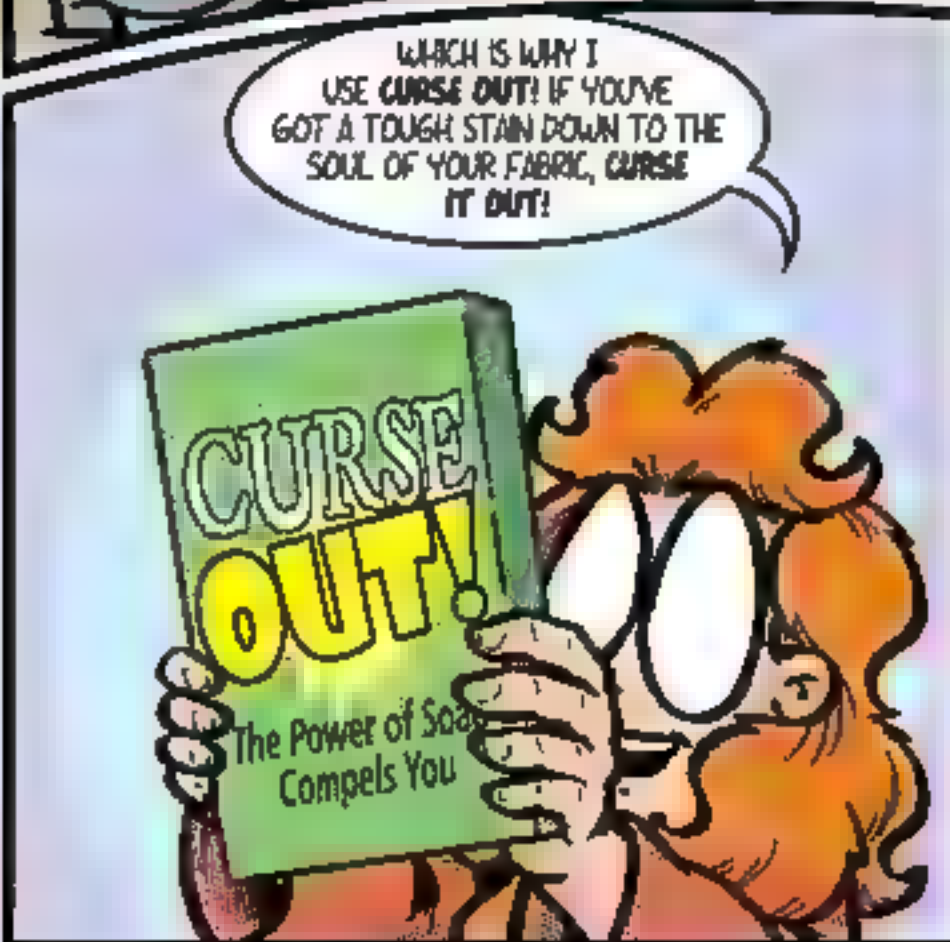
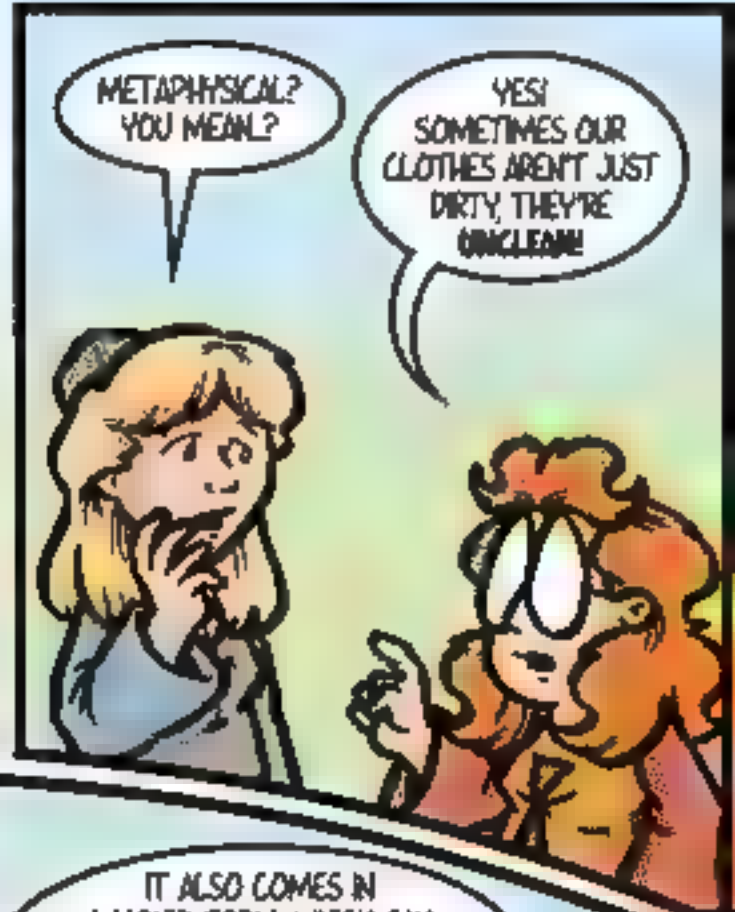
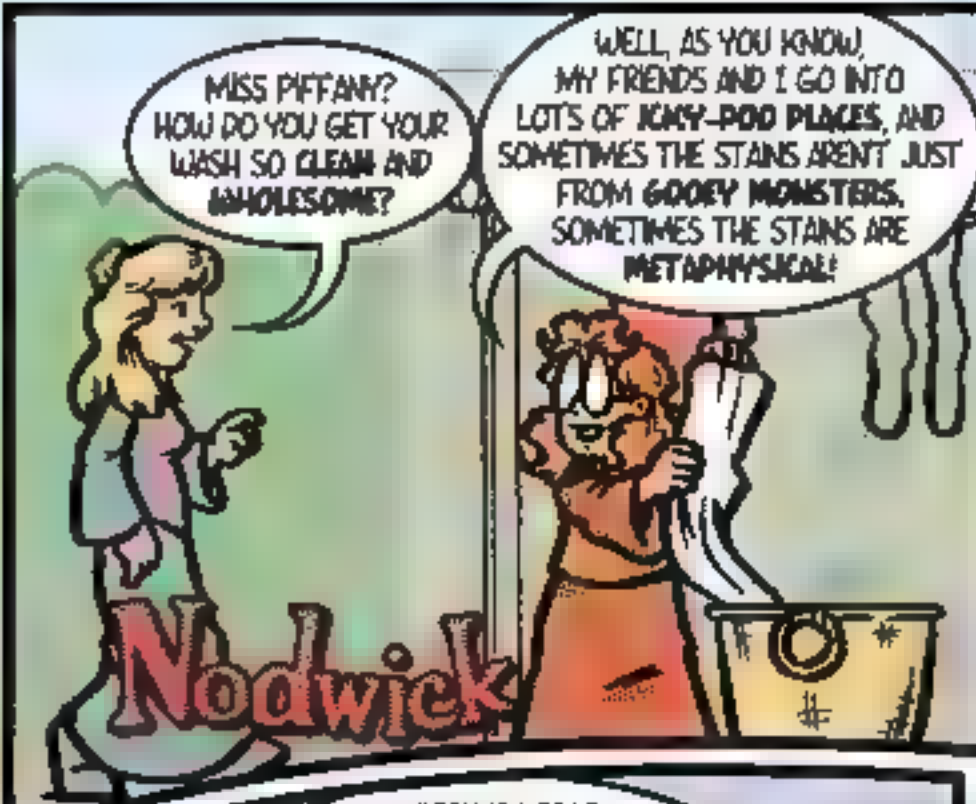


FIRST TIME FOR EVERYTHING, I SUPPOSE.











# Noodwick

AT LAST! THE MOON IS  
IN THE PROPER PHASE, THE STARS  
HAVE ALIGNED, AND THE EQUINOX  
WILL SOON—

NOPE,  
THIS ISN'T IT,  
EITHER.



I SWEAR,  
IF I HAVE TO  
SEE THE INSIDE OF  
ONE MORE DEN OF  
DARK MAGIC...

'SCUSE US,  
BUDDY.

WHO  
DARES...?

WHAT'S  
FOR DINNER? IT  
LOOKS IKKY  
TO ME.

NICE CHARTS  
YOU'VE GOT HERE. I  
WOULDN'T GONE WITH  
LACQUERED PARCHMENT,  
THOUGH; IT'S MORE  
RESISTANT TO  
EXPLOSIONS.



WHAT  
ARE YOU PEOPLE  
DOING IN MY  
TOWER?!

AT FIRST, WE  
WERE LOOKING FOR A  
BATHROOM, THEN WE GOT  
LOST. NOW, WE'RE TRYING TO  
FIND THE EXIT.

I'D COME WITH  
US IF I WERE YOU. THERE  
WAS A BUNCH OF IKKY  
MONSTER-THINGS IN THE  
HALLS AND STUFF.

WE TOOK  
CARE OF MOST  
OF THEM.



THOSE WERE MY  
MINIONS! LOOK, I'M TRYING  
TO PERFORM A SUMMONING!  
GET LOST!

OKAY,  
OKAY, BUT  
DON'T BLAME  
US IF ONE OF  
THOSE THINGS  
GETS YOU.

SHEESH. SOME  
PEOPLE.

BUH-BYE!

SOMEONE  
ON THIS BALL  
NAMED "HARTASH  
THE DEFILER"  
WANTS TO TALK TO  
YOU. HE SOUNDS  
MAD.



YES, MASTER?

YES, MASTER.

YOU MISSED  
THE EQUINOX.

AND I'M TOLD THIS  
IS BECAUSE YOUR BATHROOM  
IS TOO HARD TO FIND?!

WHIMPER...





AND HERE  
WE ARE, THE VAULT  
OF PERILOUS  
DOOM!



WHO ARE YOU?  
WE WERE HERE FIRST.  
OH, YEAH? I'LL  
BET MY PARTY CAN GET MORE  
SWAG FROM THIS PLACE THAN  
YOURS CAN.  
YOU'RE ON!  
WINNER TAKES ALL  
LET'S ROCK!



WE'LL MET  
AND EVENLY MATCHED,  
IT WOULD SEEM.



SHOULDN'T  
WE GET AFTER  
THEM?



CHAAAAARGE!

I REALLY  
NEED TO WORK ON  
BARTO'S AGGRESSIVE  
TENDENCIES.



RIGHT AFTER  
WE TEACH HIM TO  
CHANGE HIS SOCKS ON  
AT LEAST A WEEKLY  
BASIS...





# Nodwick

THAT'S FIVE  
DRCS, A TROLL, AND  
TWO BUGBEARS FOR ME  
SO FAR!

LOSER! I'VE BAGGED  
SIX DRCS, AN OGRE, AND  
FOUR HOBGOBLINS!

I'M SORRY HE'S SO  
COMPETITIVE.

MAYBE THIS'LL  
GET IT OUT OF THEIR  
SYSTEMS.

OUR BAGS OF  
HOLDING ARE ALREADY  
FULL, SINCE BARTO AND  
YEAGAR DECIDED TO MAKE  
PART OF THE CONTEST TO  
SEE HOW MANY POUNDS  
OF LOOT THEY COULD  
CLAIM.

WELL, WE  
SHOULD BE FAIR ABOUT  
THIS: OUR HENCHMAN WILL  
GLADLY CARRY  
EVERYTHING!

DO WHAT,  
NOW?

IT'S JUST FOR  
THIS ONE TIME. HOW HARD  
CAN IT BE?

THAT FIFTY-  
FOOT IRON STATUE OF THE ORC-  
GOD GRIMWASH IS MINE! SWAG  
CITY, BABY!

OH, YEAH? THEN  
I'M CLAIMING THE SOLID  
MARBLE BLOOD-SACRIFICE ALTAR.  
THAT'S GOTTA WEIGH TWICE AS  
MUCH, SMART GUY!

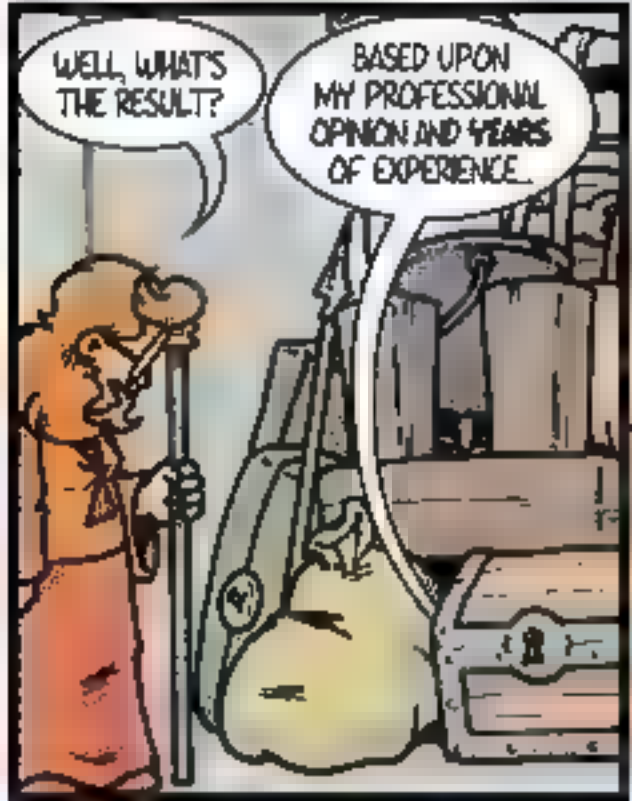




WELL, THAT WAS A FUN AFTERNOON.

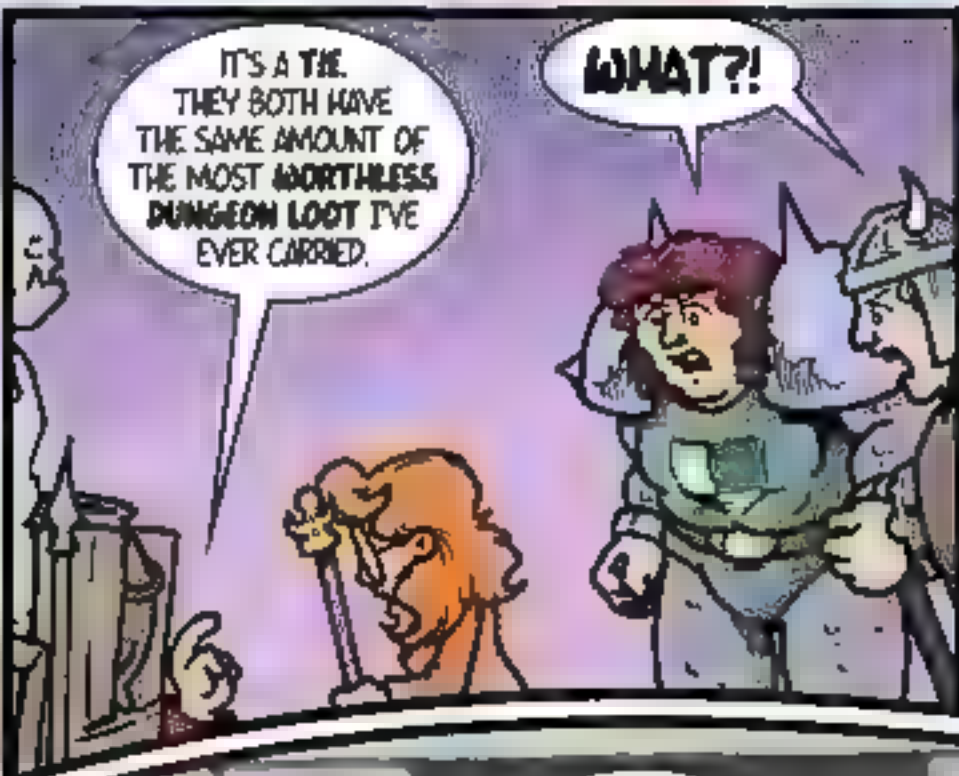
HARDLY A CHALLENGE FOR ME, THOUGH YOU ALMOST KEPT UP.

WE'LL SEE WHO GETS THE LAST LAUGH, HELMET-HEAD.



WELL, WHAT'S THE RESULT?

BASED UPON MY PROFESSIONAL OPINION AND YEARS OF EXPERIENCE.



IT'S A TIE. THEY BOTH HAVE THE SAME AMOUNT OF THE MOST WORTHLESS DUNGEON LOOT I'VE EVER CARRIED.

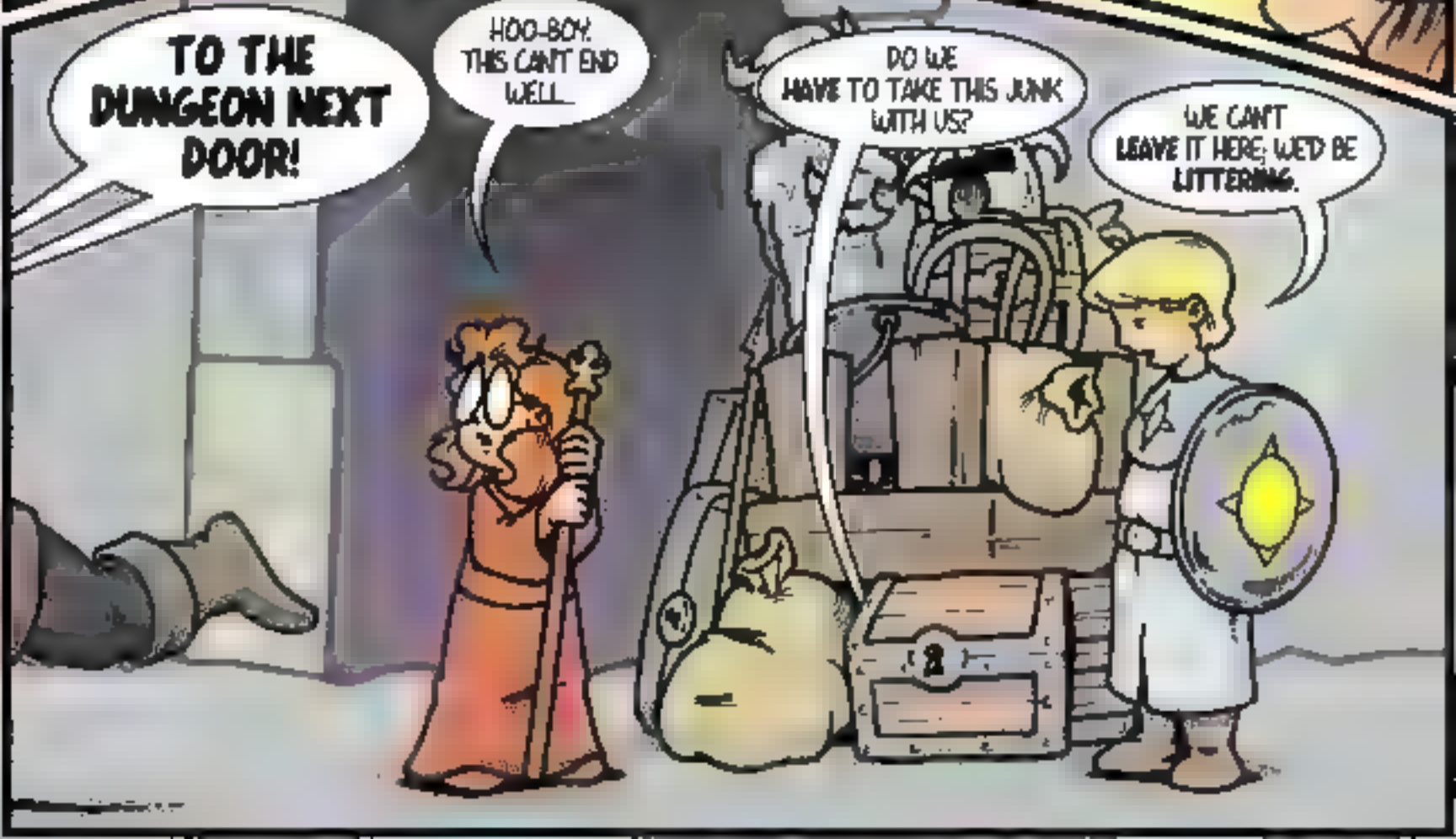
WHAT?!



THEN THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO SETTLE THIS.

HONOR DEMANDS IT.

IT'S ON, THEN.



TO THE DUNGEON NEXT DOOR!

HOO-BOY. THIS CAN'T END WELL.

DO WE HAVE TO TAKE THIS JUNK WITH US?

WE CAN'T LEAVE IT HERE; WE'D BE LITTERING.



# Nodwick

WE'RE FROM A NEARBY TOWN, OURSELVES, MISTER... UH, WHAT WAS YOUR NAME AGAIN?

VANGEL, AND SHE'S ZIMMER. YOU'RE NOT FROM KRUTZING HOLLOW, ARE YOU? WE'VE HEARD SOME FUNNY STORIES ABOUT THAT PLACE.

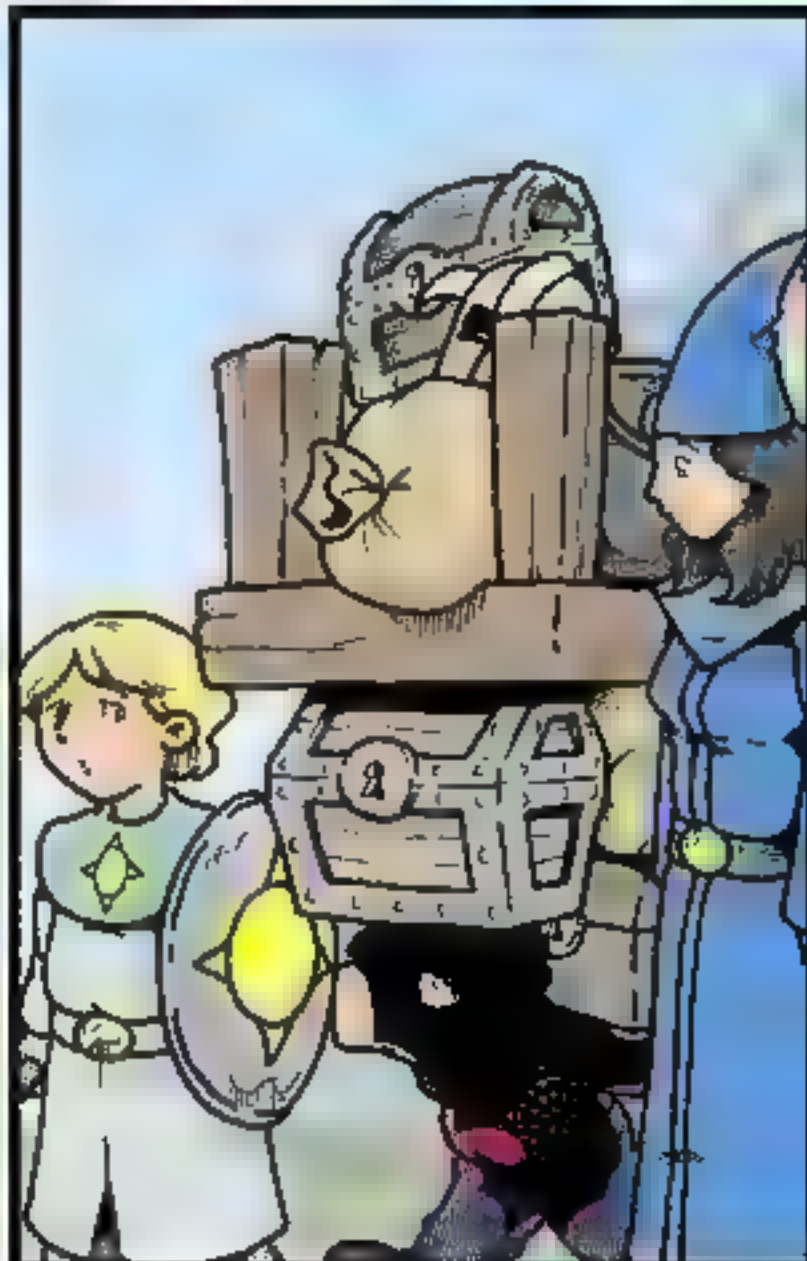
REALLY? LIKE WHAT?



LIKE THE PLACE IS A MAGNET FOR DISASTER. IT'S BEEN THE SITE OF SEVERAL SUPERNATURAL MANIFESTATIONS, A WAR BETWEEN THE DWARVES AND ELVES, AND EVEN A NEAR COLLAPSE OF TIME ITSELF. THE TALES SAY A SINGLE GROUP OF IDIOTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR JUST ABOUT EVERY CATASTROPHE!

DON'T FORGET THE HENCHMAN'S UNION THERE IS SUPPOSED TO BE RUN BY A HAMSTER!

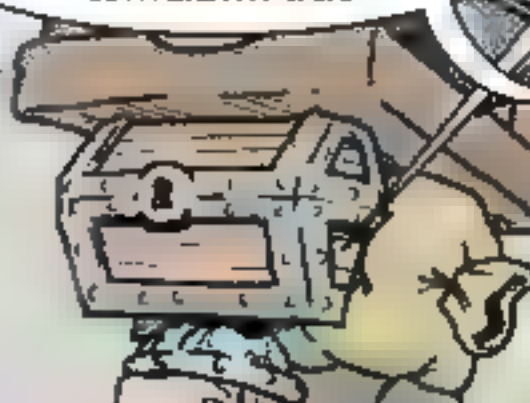
HAVE EVER HEARD OF THESE LOSERS, NODWICK?



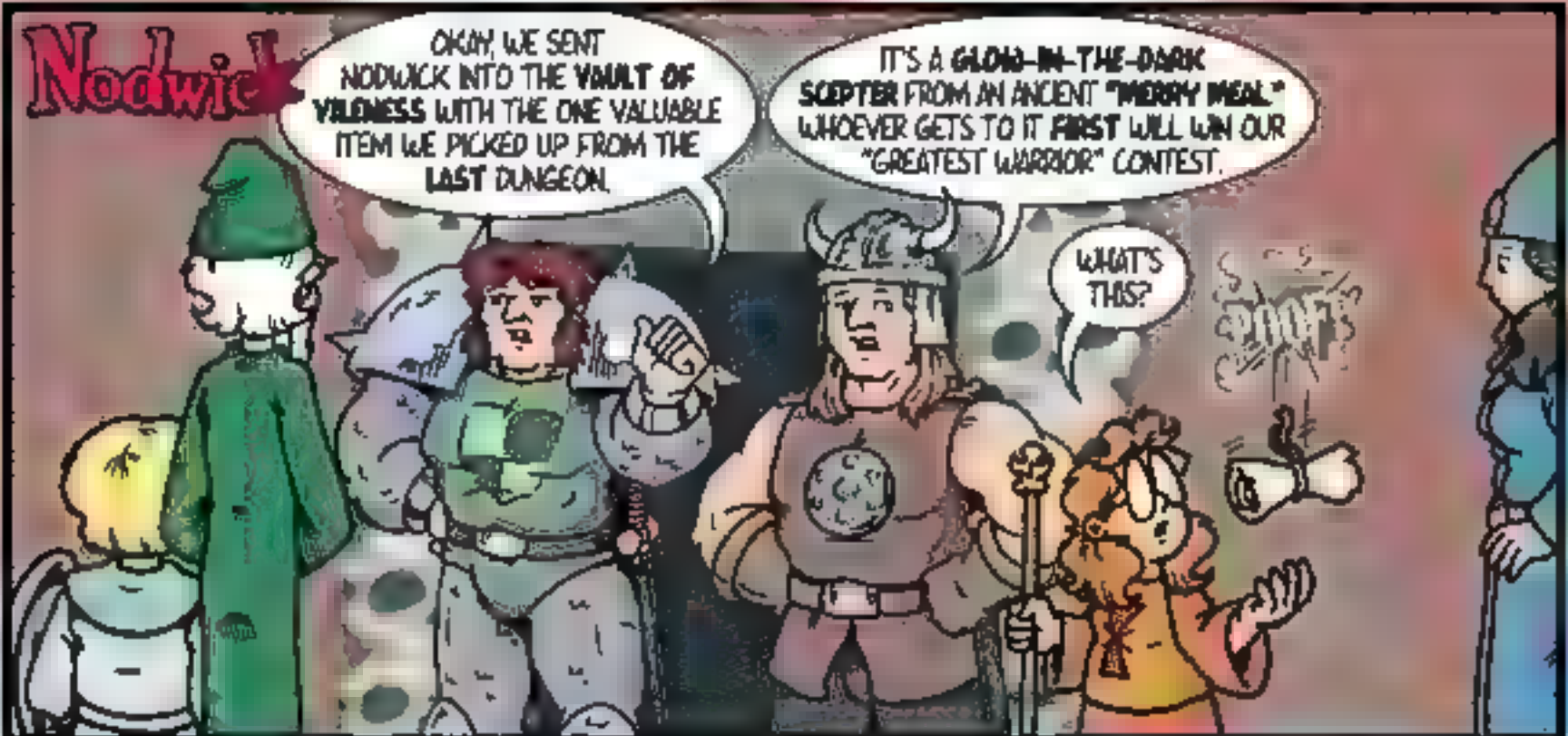
OH, HOW AWKWARD...

I'M UNABLE TO DECIDE IF I SHOULD FEEL EMBARRASSED ABOUT WHAT WE SAID OR FOR THINKING THAT RUNNING AWAY FROM YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS WOULD BE A HEALTHY IDEA.

RUNNING'S NOT A BAD IDEA, I'D DO IT MYSELF, BUT I'M UNDER CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATION TO STAY...



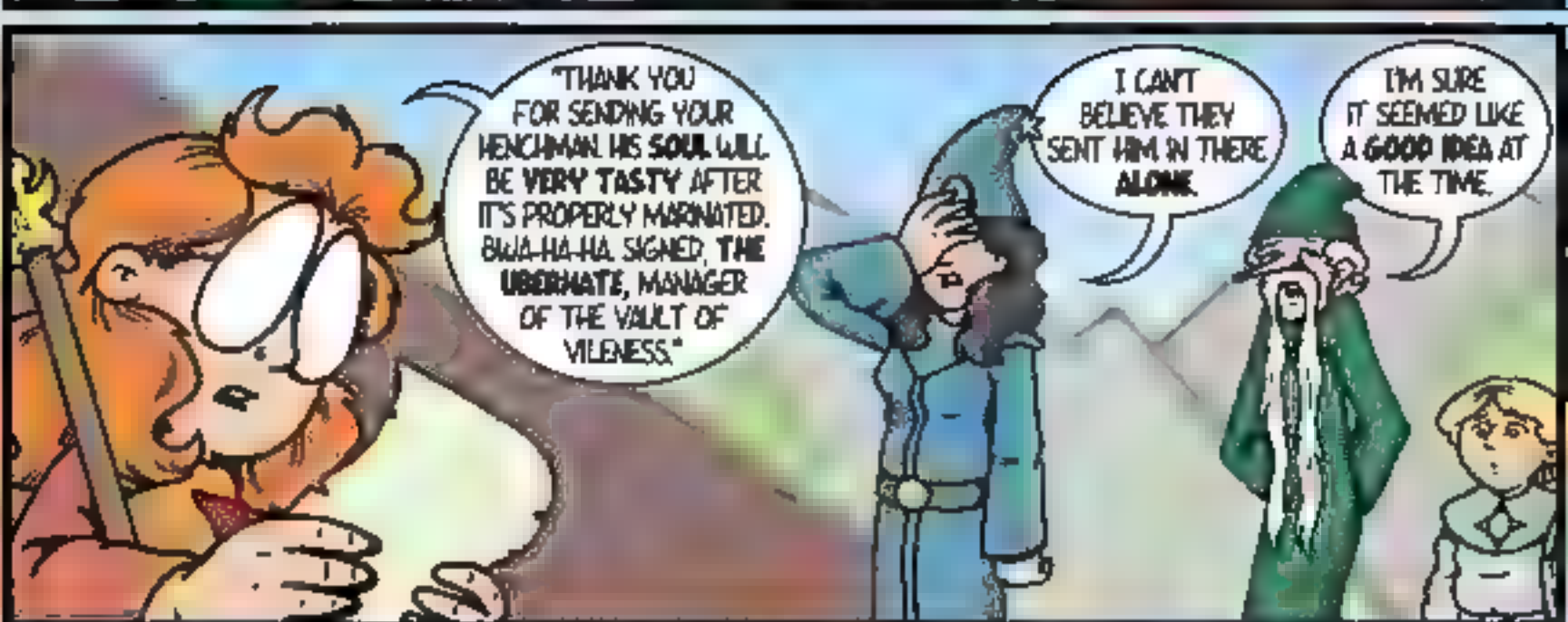




OKAY, WE SENT NODWICK INTO THE VAULT OF VILENESS WITH THE ONE VALUABLE ITEM WE PICKED UP FROM THE LAST DUNGEON.

IT'S A GLOW-IN-THE-DARK SCEPTER FROM AN ANCIENT "MERRY MEAL." WHOEVER GETS TO IT FIRST WILL WIN OUR "GREATEST WARRIOR" CONTEST.

WHAT'S THIS?



"THANK YOU FOR SENDING YOUR HENCHMAN. HIS SOUL WILL BE VERY TASTY AFTER IT'S PROPERLY MARINATED. BWA-HA-HA. SIGNED, THE UBERMATE, MANAGER OF THE VAULT OF VILENESS."

I CAN'T BELIEVE THEY SENT HIM IN THERE ALONE.

I'M SURE IT SEEMED LIKE A GOOD IDEA AT THE TIME.



HEAD CONTEST, GUYS! WHOEVER CAN RESCUE THE HENCHMAN WINS!

RESCUE THE HENCHMAN?

RESCUE THE HENCHMAN.

WHAT'S WRONG?

I DON'T GET IT.

I KNOW WHAT EACH WORD MEANS, BUT WHEN YOU SAY THEM ALL TOGETHER THEY DON'T MAKE ANY SENSE.





**Nodwick!**

WITH YOU IN  
MY CLUTCHES, I'LL HAVE  
THE REST OF YOUR FRIENDS  
HERE AND I SHALL DEVOUR  
THEIR ESSENCES!

DON'T  
COUNT ON  
IT.



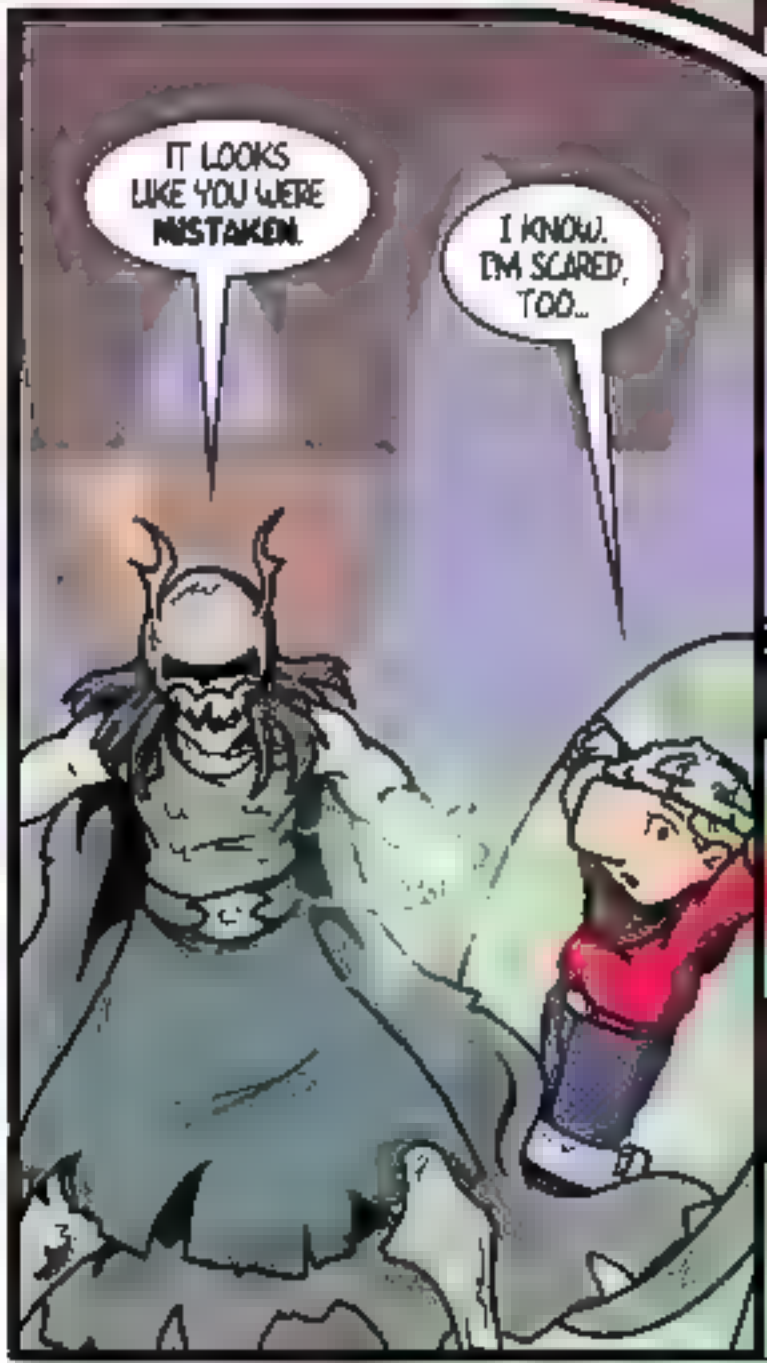
WHAT? WHY?

I'M THE  
HIRED HELP. IF YOU  
LOOK UP "HENCHMAN"  
IN THE DICTIONARY, IT  
SAYS "SEE: EXPENDABLE."  
NOBODY IN THEIR  
RIGHT MIND  
WOULD--

THERE HE IS!



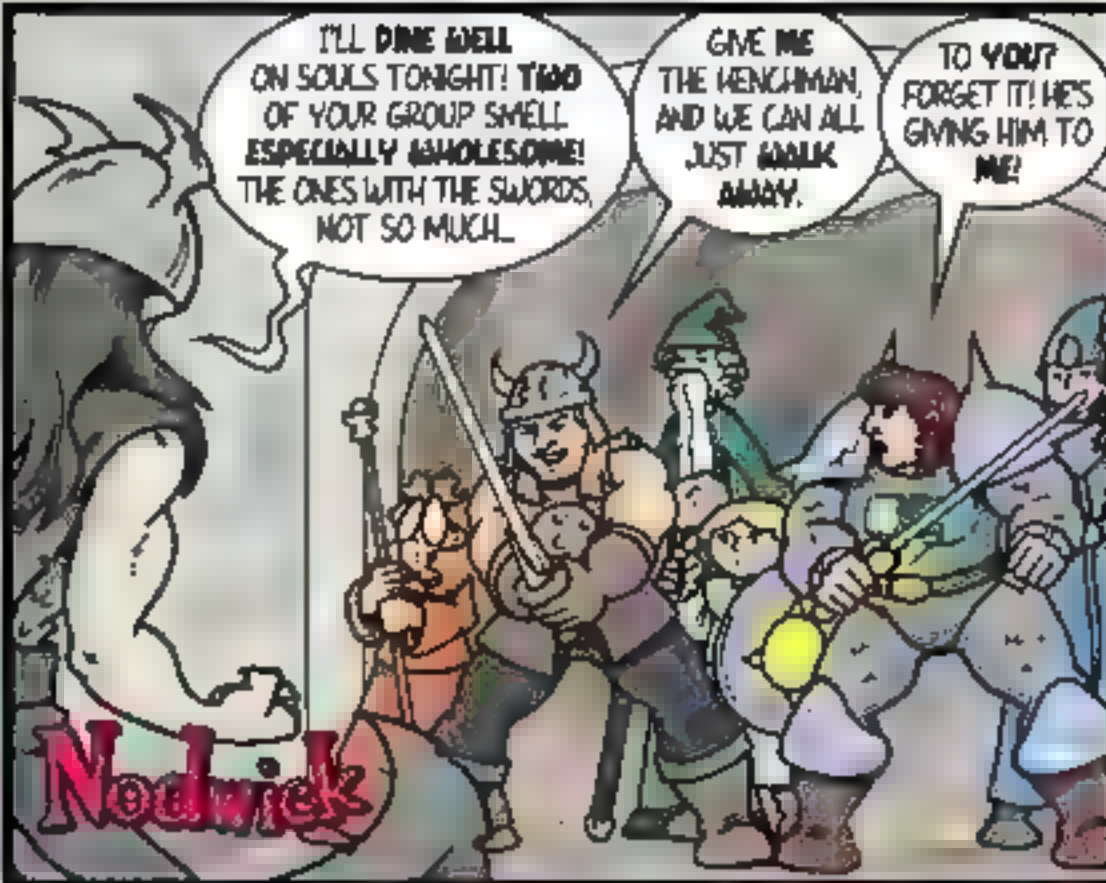
FEAR NOT,  
HENCHMAN!  
WE'RE HERE TO  
SAVE YOU!



IT LOOKS  
LIKE YOU WERE  
MISTAKEN.

I KNOW.  
I'M SCARED,  
TOO...





I'LL DINE WELL  
ON SOULS TONIGHT! TWO  
OF YOUR GROUP SMELL  
ESPECIALLY WHOLESOME!  
THE ONES WITH THE SWORDS,  
NOT SO MUCH.

GIVE ME  
THE MENCHMAN,  
AND WE CAN ALL  
JUST WALK  
AWAY.

TO YOU?  
FORGET IT! HE'S  
GIVING HIM TO  
ME!

Nodwick



IN A  
PIG'S EYE, I'M  
WINNING AND  
THAT'S THAT. HE'S  
OBVIOUSLY COWED  
BY MY BARBARIC  
WARRIOR  
PRESENCE.

THE ONLY  
THING BARBARIC  
ABOUT YOU IS YOUR  
BREATH! THE  
UBERHATE'S QUAKING  
IN HIS SHOES 'CUZ I'M  
INTIMIDATING THE  
SPIT OUT OF  
HIM!



HELLO?  
I WAS IN THE  
MIDDLE OF  
DOOMING YOU  
TO ETERNAL  
DARKNESS  
HERE, AND—

YOU?  
YOU COULDN'T  
INTIMIDATE A  
KITTEN! NOTICE  
HOW HE CAN'T LOOK  
STRAIGHT AT ME?  
THAT'S REAL  
FEAR!

OH,  
PLEASE! HE'S  
SWEATING  
BUCKETS, JUST  
WONDERING WHEN  
I'M GOING TO PUT  
HIS LIGHTS  
OUT!



YOU WORK WITH  
THESE PEOPLE?

YEAH, BUT  
THEIR STYLE CAN COME  
IN HANDY.

OH? HOW SO?

IT DISTRACTS  
THE BAD GUYS SO THE  
ADVENTURERS WHO REALLY KNOW  
WHAT THEY'RE DOING CAN GET THEM  
WHEN THEY'RE NOT  
LOOKING.



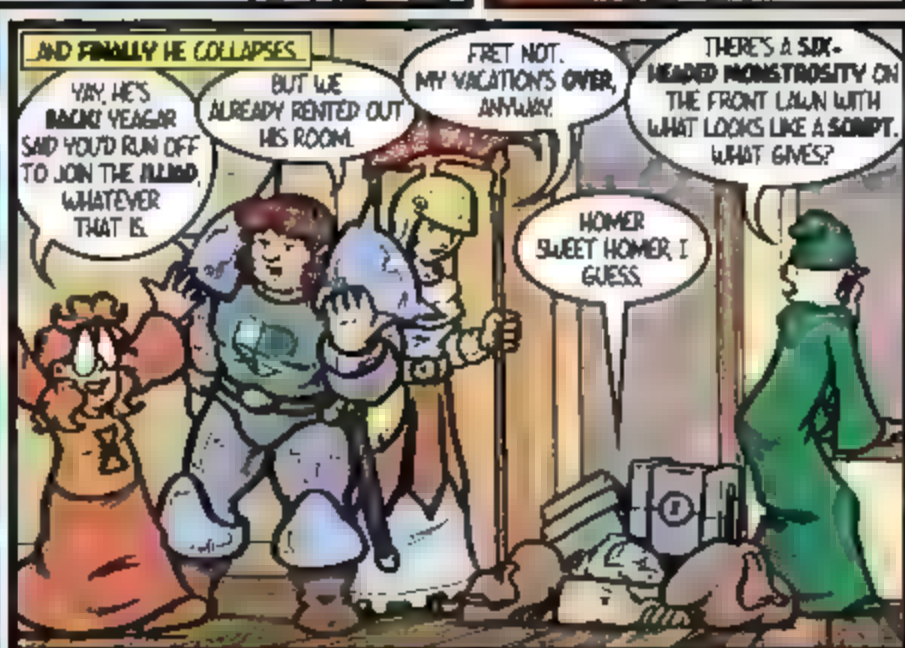
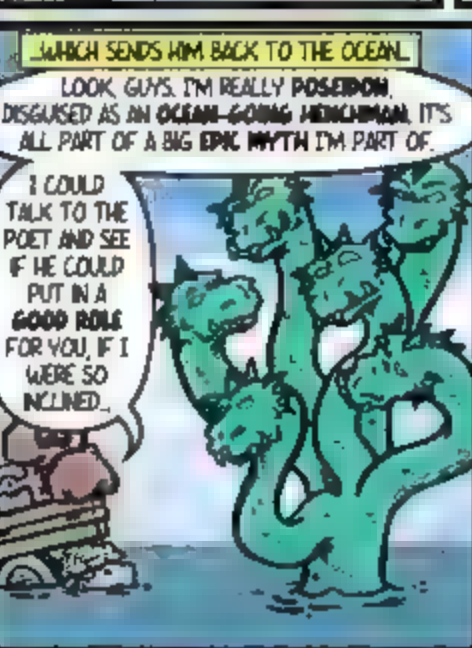
YEAH, LIKE THAT.

YAY FOR US!

NOT BAD,  
YOU HOOK YOUR  
LIGHTNING BOLTS TO  
THE LEFT, YOU  
KNOW.

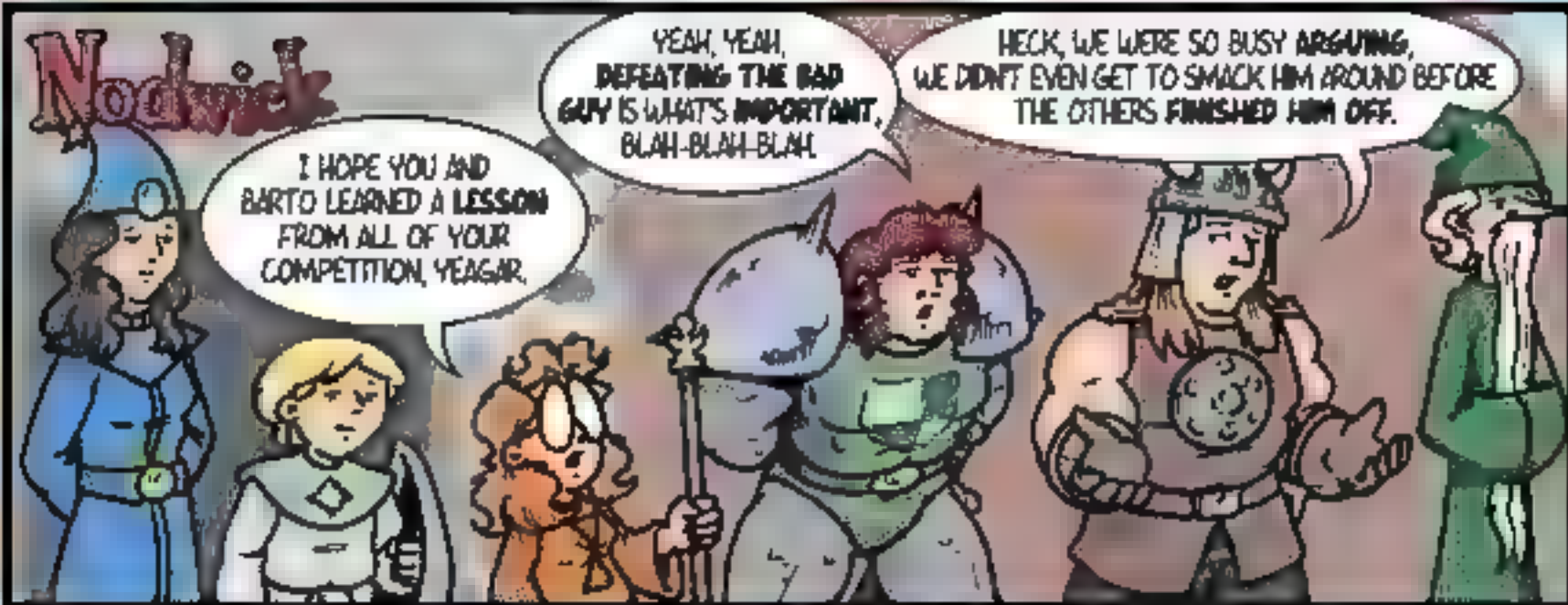
I'M OUT  
OF PRACTICE;  
THEY TOOK DOWN  
MY GUILD'S TARGET  
RANGE AFTER THEY  
INSTALLED A COPPER  
ROOF ON CITY  
HALL.







# Nodwick





# Nodwick



GUYS! CHECK THIS OUT! THE RULER OF THE LANDS TWO KINGDOMS OVER IS HAVING A "BUILD A BETTER CATAPULT" CONTEST! I'M GOING TO ENTER!

I SUPPOSE THAT'S GOOD AS LONG AS IT GETS YOU OUT IN THE FRESH AIR...

I TAKE IT A PRIZE IS INVOLVED?



JUST TWENTY THOUSAND PIECES OF GOLD!

PLUS THERE'S THE PRESTIGE, YOU GET AN AWARD-WINNING SIEGE ENGINE NAMED AFTER YOU, PEOPLE BUY YOU DRINKS...



AND, ACCORDING TO THE FLYER, AN AGREEMENT THAT IT WON'T BE USED ON YOUR HOME TOWN IF THE CONTEST HOLDER EVER DECIDES TO INVADIE.

SEE? PERKS A-PLenty! NOW, HELP ME PULL THE RAFTERS OUT OF THE CEILING, I'M GOING TO NEED THE WOOD!





# Nodwick

YEAGAR?

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET

HIYA PIF. WHAT'S UP?

I JUST CAME OUT TO SEE HOW YOUR CATAPULT WAS COMING.

OH, NOT BAD. THE MATERIALS AREN'T **TOP-NOTCH**, BUT THANKS TO ARTAX'S HELP WITH SOME **COUNTER-WEIGHTS** AND **SPRING-LOADED MECHANICAL STUFF**, I THINK WE'VE GOT A **WINNER**. THE TENSION METER IS GIVING ME TROUBLE, THOUGH.

TENSION METER?

TOO TIGHT!  
TOO TIGHT!!!  
OW!!

TOP SECRET

YEAH. IT COMPLAINS A LOT.

WELL, I JUST TO MAKE SURE YOU REMEMBER YOUR PROMISE TO **REASSEMBLE** THE SECOND FLOOR OF OUR HOUSE WHEN YOU'RE DONE.

TOP SECRET

OF COURSE I REMEMBER. BESIDES, **VAULTED CEILINGS** ARE VERY "IN."



# Nodwick

LADY AND GENTLEMEN, I'M PROUD TO UNVEIL MY CATAPULT PROTOTYPE...



THE FRISBODISC X-17 SIEGE ENGINE!

X?

HE SAID IT WAS FOR "X-TRA COOL."

SEVENTEEN?

HE REJECTED SIXTEEN OTHER NAMES FOR IT BEFORE HE PICKED "FRISBODISC."



SO... HOW DOES IT WORK?

LIKE THIS!



**KA-FLING!**



I DON'T THINK I WOULD'VE DONE THAT IN THE CITY LIMITS.

WOW. GOOD AIR. BUT HOW OFTEN DO YOU FIND SAUCER-SHAPED ROCKS LIKE THAT ONE?

YOU DON'T! THAT'S WHAT DEFENSE CONTRACTS ARE FOR!

I'D BETTER GO MAKE COOKIES FOR THE TOWN GUARD. THEY SHOULD BE HERE ANY MINUTE.





# Nodwick

GREAT. ALL  
THAT WORK FOR  
NOTHING!

WHAT DO  
YOU MEAN?

THE CATAPULT  
CONTEST HAS BEEN CANCELLED  
BECAUSE OF KINGDOM-WIDE PANIC!  
EVERYONE'S RUNNING AROUND TOWN  
TALKING ABOUT "FLYING  
SAUKERS," WHATEVER  
THOSE ARE.

WHAT, YOU  
MEAN BIG, DISC-SHAPED  
OBJECTS?

PROBABLY.

THAT PEOPLE  
SAW FLYING OVER  
TOWN?

YEAH.

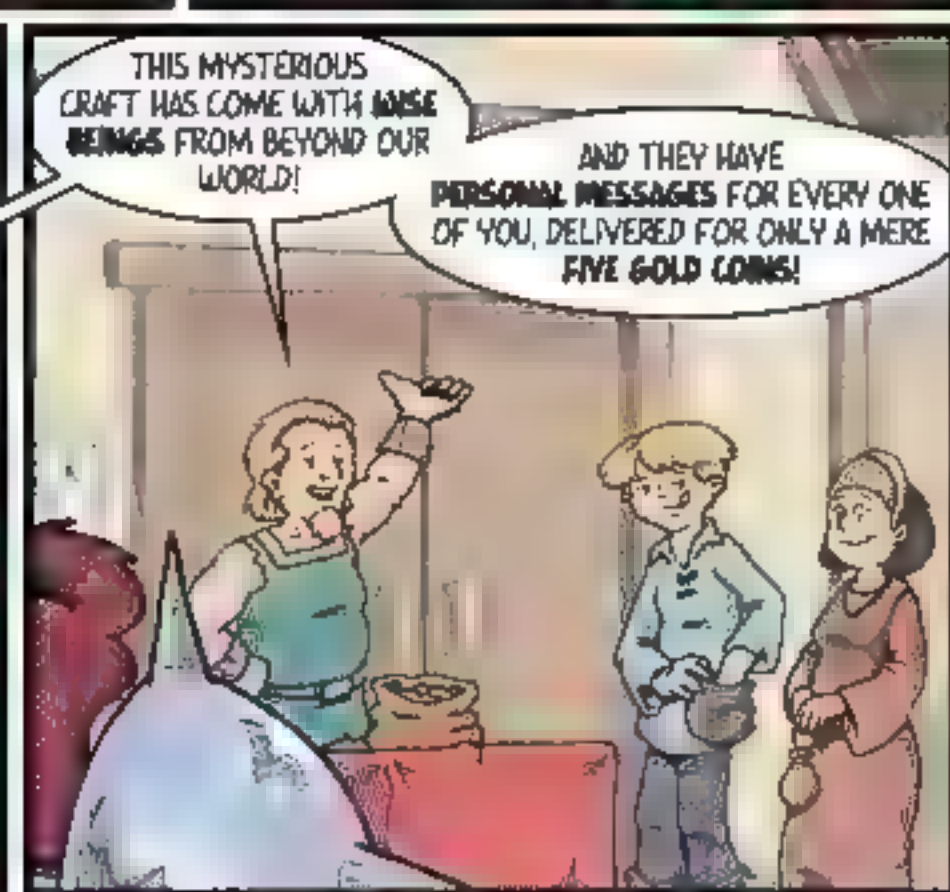
LIKE THE  
DISC-SHAPED ROCK  
YOU FIRED FROM THE  
CATAPULT YOU  
BUILT?

WHAT'S YOUR  
POINT?

WHAT HE  
MEANS IS—

HANG ON, PIFFANK.  
GIVE HIM ABOUT TWENTY  
MORE SECONDS AND THEN  
HE'LL GET IT.







# Nodwick

I DON'T BELIEVE  
THAT HE'S GOT THE TOWN  
CONVINCED THAT CREATURES  
FROM ANOTHER PLANET  
ARRIVED ON MY CATAPULT  
ROCK, AND HE'S CHARGING  
ADMISSION

I TALKED  
WITH ONE OF THE  
TICKET BUYERS. APPARENTLY,  
THE "BEINGS" THEY TALK TO  
SPEAK FROM BEHIND A CURTAIN.  
IT'S THE OLDEST SCAM  
IN THE BOOK.

WHY DOESN'T  
ANYONE EVER USE THIS  
KIND OF MANIA TO DO  
SOMETHING POSITIVE  
AT LEAST?

IF ONLY  
I'D KNOWN HOW  
GULLIBLE THE PEOPLE  
WOULD BE.

THERE'S A REASON  
THE TOWN MOTTO IS: "WHEN  
IN TROUBLE, WHEN IN DOUBT,  
RUN IN CIRCLES, SCREAM  
AND SHOUT."

TOO BAD  
WE DON'T HAVE  
OTHERWORLDLY BEINGS  
OF OUR OWN TO SPREAD  
MESSAGES OF GOODNESS  
AND NICENESS.

IT SEEMS  
TO ME YOU COULD  
PASS ANY WEIRD THING  
OFF AS ONE OF THESE  
"VISITORS." I MEAN, IT'S  
NOT LIKE ANYBODY HAS  
ACTUALLY SEEN ONE,  
RIGHT?

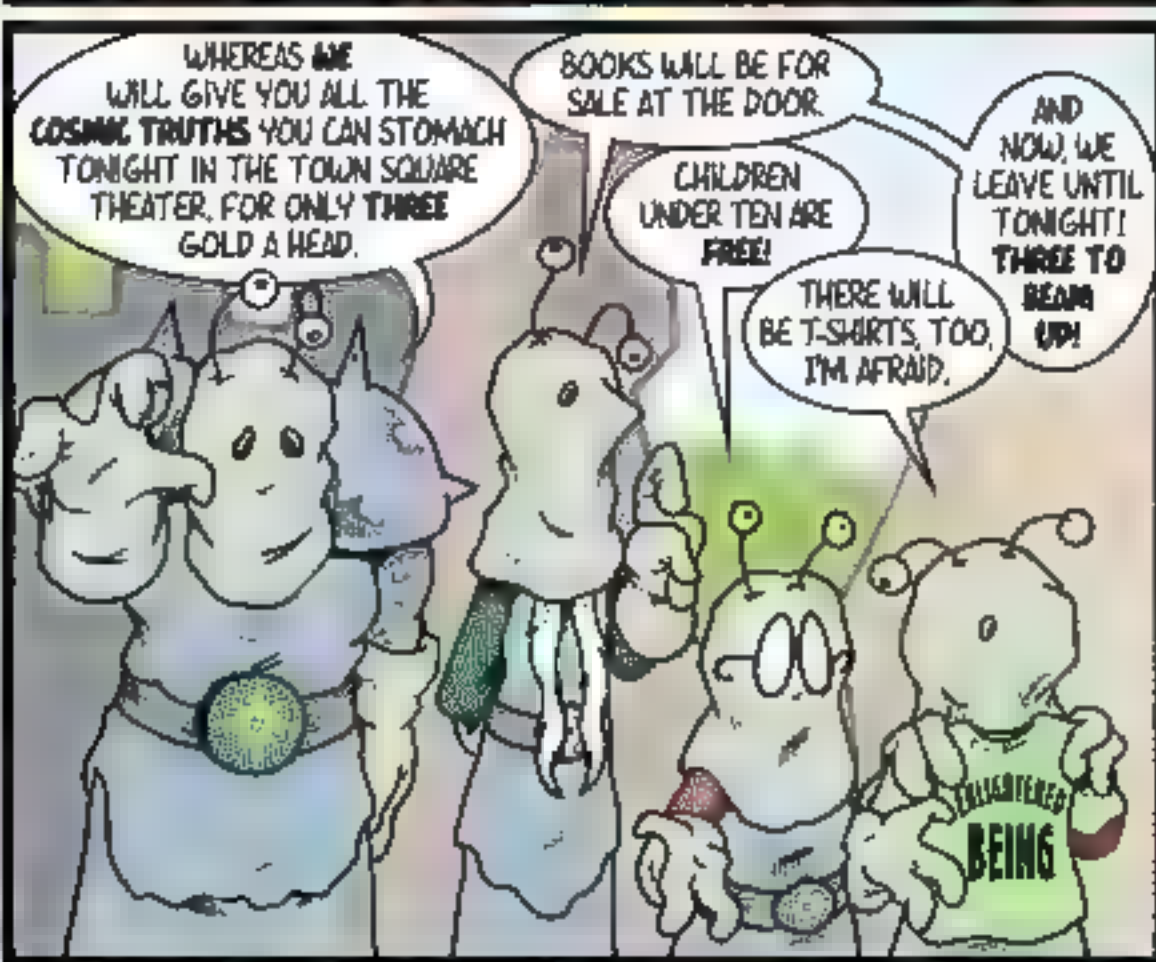
...AND HERE  
COMES THAT FEELING  
I GET AFTER I REALIZE  
I SHOULD'VE KEPT MY  
MOUTH SHUT...





ATTENTION, PEOPLE  
OF THIS WORLD: WE ARE THE TRUE VISITORS  
FROM THE STARS!

THAT MAN STOLE OUR  
CRAFT AND IS GIVING YOU FALSE MESSAGES FOR  
FIVE GOLD PIECES.



WHEREAS WE  
WILL GIVE YOU ALL THE  
COSMIC TRUTHS YOU CAN STOMACH  
TONIGHT IN THE TOWN SQUARE  
THEATER, FOR ONLY THREE  
GOLD A HEAD.

BOOKS WILL BE FOR  
SALE AT THE DOOR.

CHILDREN  
UNDER TEN ARE  
FREE!

THERE WILL  
BE T-SHIRTS, TOO,  
I'M AFRAID.

AND  
NOW, WE  
LEAVE UNTIL  
TONIGHT!  
THREE TO  
BEAM  
UP!



KOFF-  
KOFF! THREE?  
WAIT--

KOFF-HACK!



HUH, THEY  
LEFT ONE BEHIND.

MAYBE IT'S SO  
WE'D GET TO UNDERSTAND  
THEM BETTER.

MAYBE.  
SO... DO YOU WANT  
TO EXPERIMENT  
ON IT?

WHAT?

SURE MY  
AFTERNOONS  
FREE.



WELCOME, ALL FEE-PAYING CITIZENS!  
WE, THE VISITORS FROM BEYOND THE HEAVENS,  
HAVE COME TO YOU BRINGING ENLIGHTENMENT  
AND WISDOM AT A REASONABLE PRICE!

BE GOOD  
AND NICE TO ONE  
ANOTHER, AND YOU, YOUNG  
MAN IN THE THIRD ROW:  
STOP PULLING YOUR  
SISTER'S HAIR THIS  
INSTANT!

WHAT QUESTIONS  
DO YOU HAVE FOR US, THE PEOPLE  
OF THE STARS?

WHY DO THE  
INTERNAL ORGANS  
OF THE SHORT VISITOR  
YOU LEFT BEHIND  
LOOK A LOT LIKE JUST  
ABOUT EVERYONE  
ELSE'S?

Nodwick

OKAY, MY BAD. I  
SHOULD HAVE DONE A HEAD  
COUNT AFTER YOUR TELEPORT  
SPELL.

YOU'VE, AH...  
SEEN THEM, HAVE  
YOU?

YEP,  
DISSECTED  
THE CRITTER  
MYSELF.

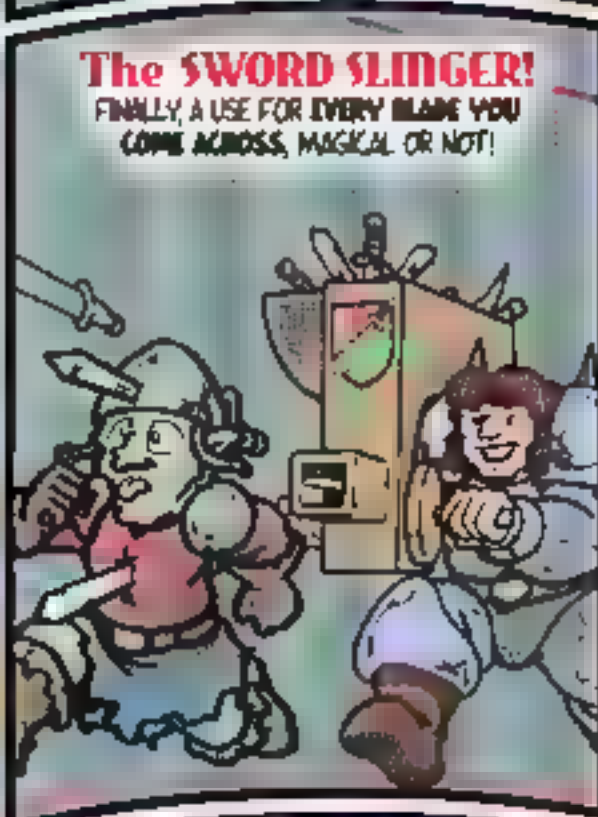
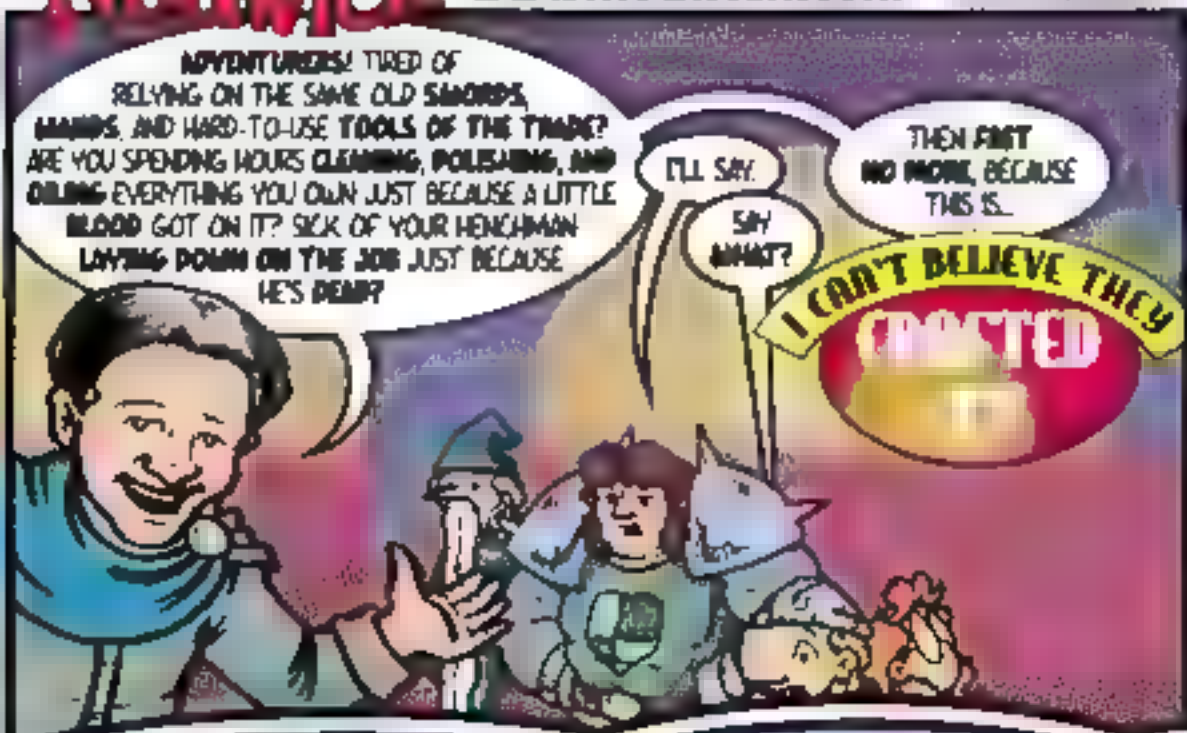
OH, DEAR.

THINK FAST,  
MAGIC-MAN.

YOU'RE PROBABLY JUST  
HOLDING THEM UPSIDE-DOWN. AND MIND  
WHAT LOOKS LIKE AN INTESTINE; IT CONTAINS  
COSMIC ENERGY THAT COULD ENLIGHTEN  
YOUR HEAD CLEAN OFF.

IF YOU COULD  
PUT MOST OF HIM IN A  
SACK OR SOMETHING AND BRING  
IT BACKSTAGE, I'D BE EVER SO  
GRATEFUL...



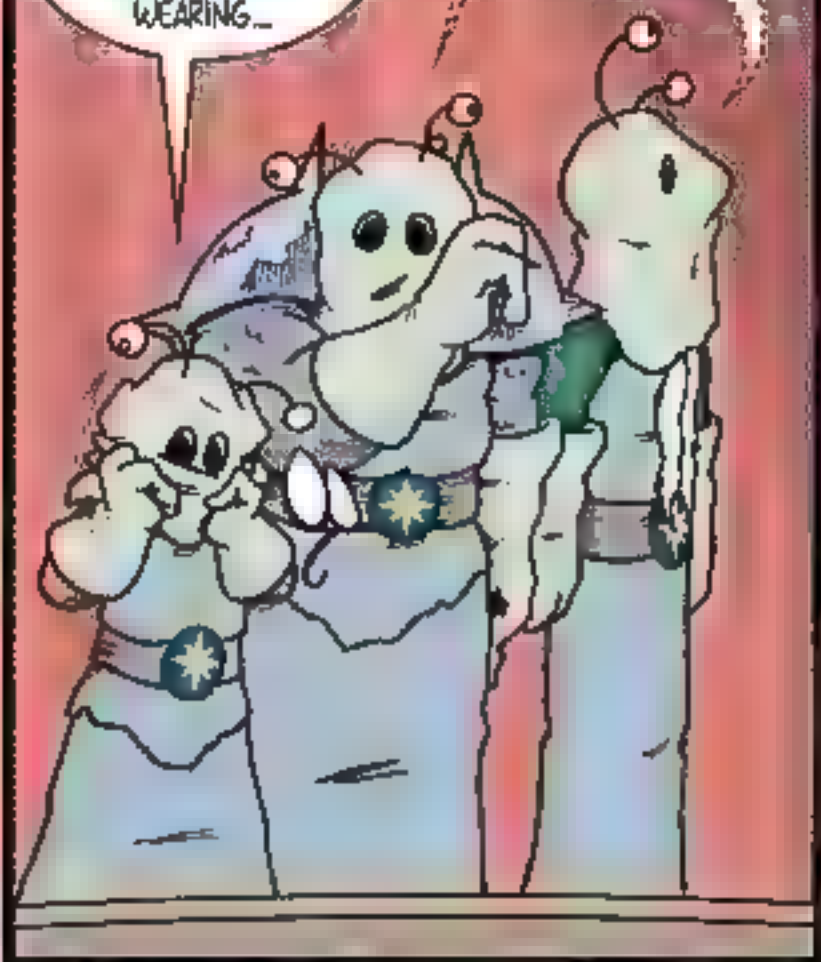




GOOD PEOPLE OF KRUTZING HOLLOW, I HAVE A **CONFESSION** TO MAKE. THESE ARE JUST **COSTUMES** WE'RE WEARING...

PIF, WHAT ARE YOU **DOING?**

OKAY...  
NEAREST **EXIT**.  
NEAREST **EXIT**...



WE SAW THAT YOU ALL WANTED TO LISTEN TO **VISITORS** FROM THE **STARS**, AND WE THOUGHT THAT MAYBE YOU'D LISTEN TO A MESSAGE OF **GOODNESS** AND **BEING NICE** TO EACH OTHER, BUT I THINK IT'S ALL GONE TOO FAR AND ONE OF US WAS **HURT** BECAUSE OF IT.

I'M SORRY FOR WHAT WE DID, BUT I HOPE YOU'LL STILL THINK ABOUT **LIVING IN PEACE** AND **HARMONY** AND THINGS LIKE THAT.

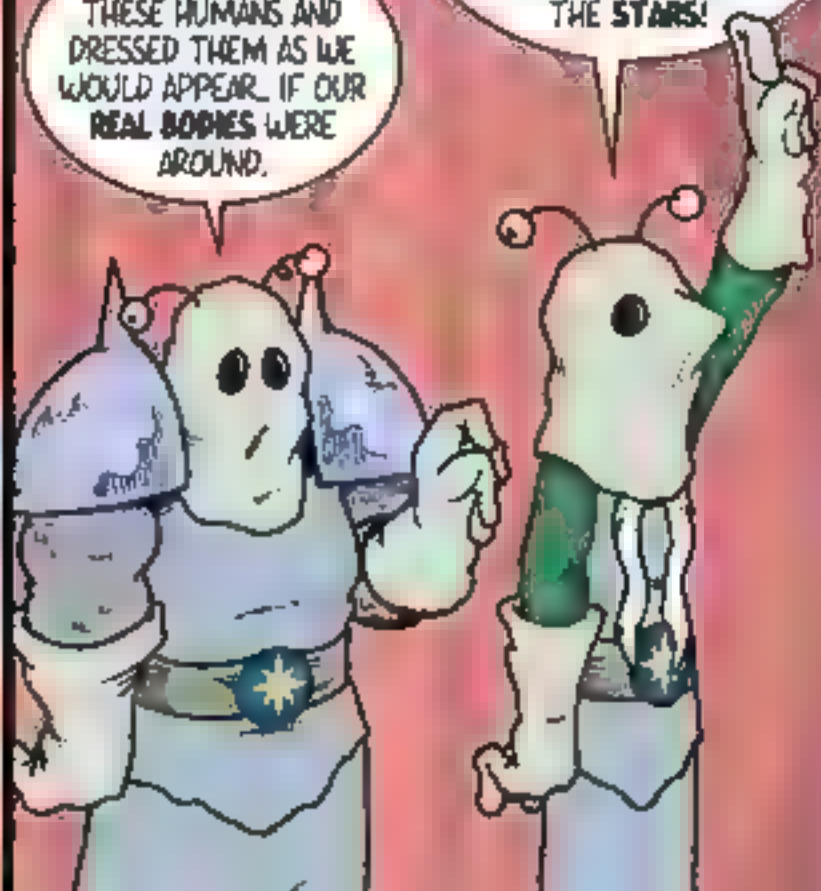


ER, YES... WE WORE THESE **COSTUMES** BECAUSE...

WE DIDN'T BRING OUR **PHYSICAL BODIES** WITH US!

WE **POSSESSED** THESE HUMANS AND DRESSED THEM AS WE WOULD APPEAR, IF OUR **REAL BODIES** WERE AROUND.

GOOD IDEA—  
ER, RIGHT, THAT'S **EXACTLY** IT. SO BUY OUR BOOKS AT THE FRONT DOOR FOR EVEN MORE **WISDOM** AND **ENLIGHTENMENT**. AND NOW, WE RETURN TO THE **STARS!**



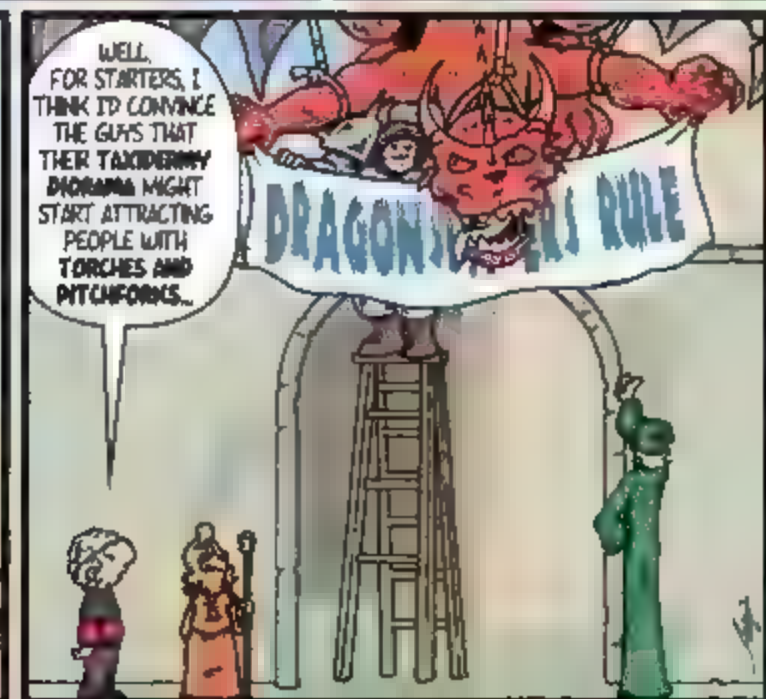
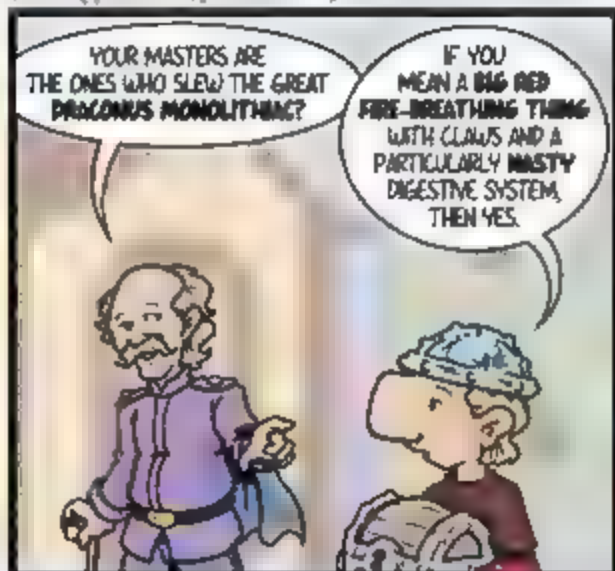
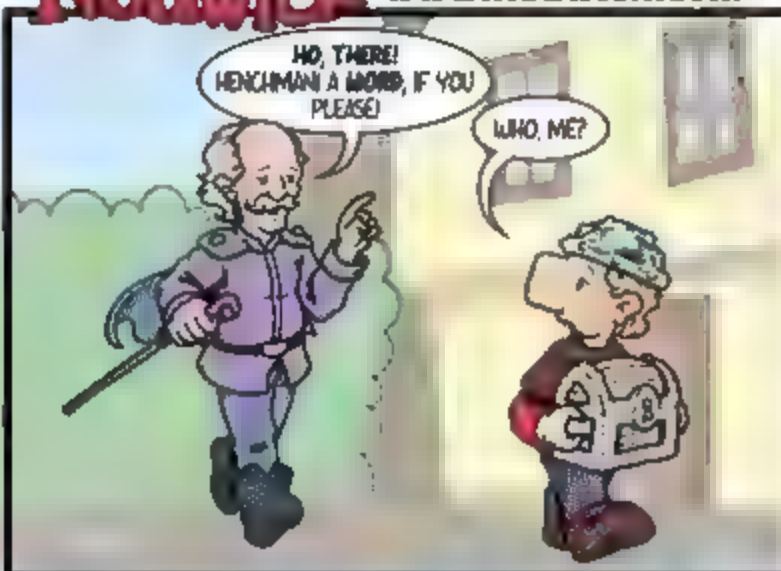
WHOA WHERE AM I? I FEEL LIKE SOMEONE HAS BEEN USING MY **BODY** TO SPREAD **COSMIC TRUTHS** AROUND.

ME, TOO! THE LAST THING I REMEMBER WAS A FEELING OF **OMNISCIENT BENEVOLENCE** WITH A HINT OF **POTPOURRI**...

...AND THE AUDIENCE BROUGHT **TORCHES** AND **PITCHFORKS**...









OOOHH.

SO, I GUESS  
WE'RE DONE PLAYING  
'VISITORS FROM THE  
STARS' RIGHT?

YEAH.  
IT DIDN'T GO AS  
PLANNED.

IT'LL BE A WHILE BEFORE  
WE CAN GO BACK TO TOWN WITHOUT  
GETTING LYNCHED.

Nodwick

I FIGURED. IS IT THE  
USUAL ARRANGEMENT?

UH-HUH. TEN PERCENT  
OF OUR LOOT FOR A YEAR,  
AND WE CAN RETURN.

FIFTEEN PERCENT  
AND THE TOWNSFOLK WILL  
BE KEPT FROM BURNING  
OUR HOUSE DOWN.

AM I TAKING  
ANOTHER PAY CUT  
FOR A WHILE?

JUST UNTIL  
WE RECOUP OUR PRINTING  
COSTS.

AT LEAST  
BOOKS OF 'COSMIC WISDOM'  
COME IN HANDY FOR  
CAMPING OUT.



LOVELY  
FALL COLORS.

BIRDIES  
AND CUTE FUZZY  
ANIMALS!

EXERCISE  
FROM SCRATCHING  
BUG BITES.

FOOD TASTES  
BETTER OVER A  
CAMPFIRE.

THE STARS AT NIGHT.

THE SUNRISES!

HUGE SPIDERS.

THE FRESH BREEZE.

I THINK  
WE'RE DONE PLAYING  
"LIST THE ~~GOOD~~ THINGS  
ABOUT HAVING TO LIVE  
IN THE FOREST FOR  
A WHILE."

I THOUGHT  
WE AGREED WE  
WOULDN'T QUIT UNTIL  
WE GOT TO  
TWENTY.

FINE: SNAKES, MONSTERS,  
THORNS, MOLD, POISON IVY, ROCKS IN  
YOUR SHOES, NO HOT WATER, FROST, HAIL,  
MUD, HEATSTROKE, AND NUMBER ONE ON  
OUR TOP TWENTY LIST, WIPING  
WITH LEAVES.

SO... ANOTHER  
ROUND OF "I SPY,"  
THEN?



# Nodwick

MEANWHILE

HEY, DAVE.

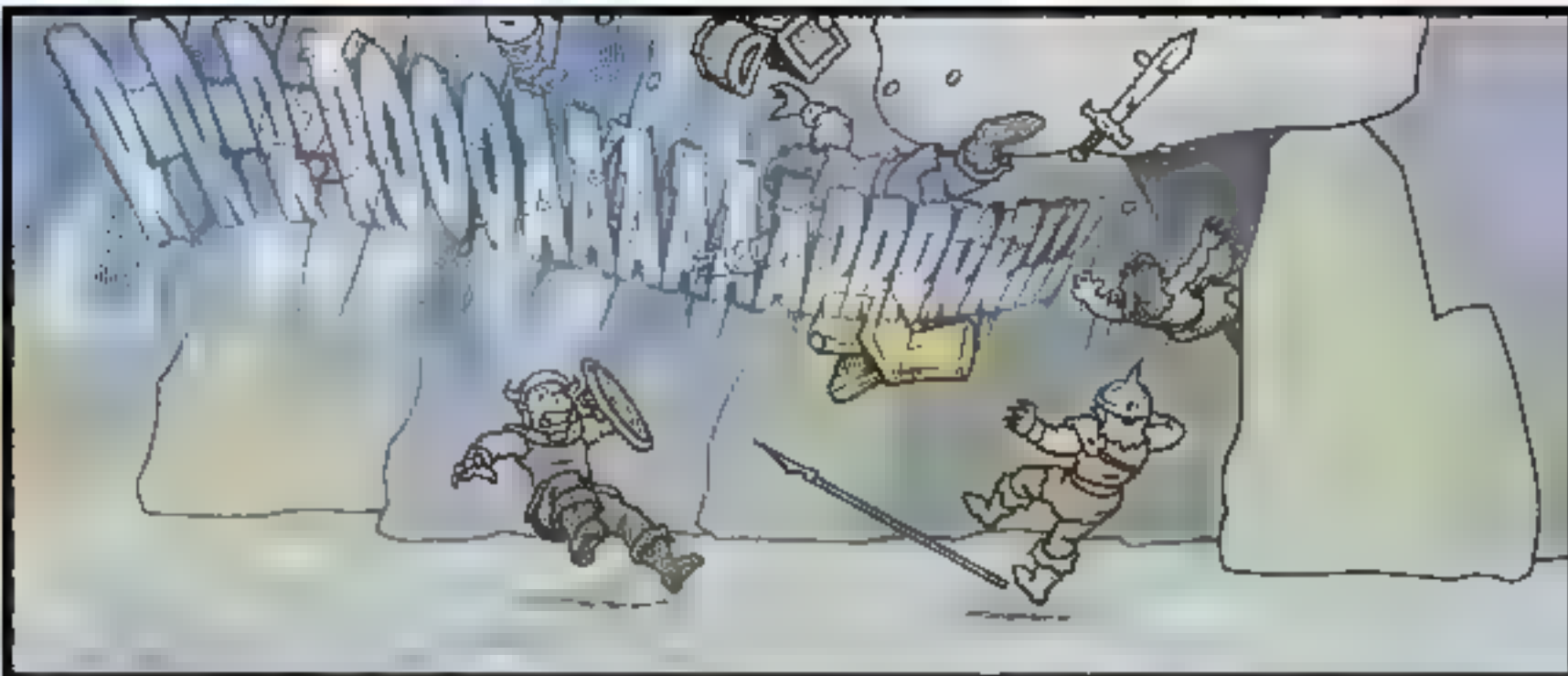
YO, BOB.  
WHAT'S UP?

NOTHIN'.  
THE CHIEF SENT  
ME OUT FOR SOME  
SENTRY DUTY.  
WHAT'RE YOU  
UP TO?

GUARDING  
THE DUNGEON  
ENTRANCE. SAME  
OLD SAME  
OLD.

I HEAR  
YOU. BORING  
AS—

UH.  
WHAT'S  
THAT?



YOU KNOW, I  
THINK I'M GOING TO TAKE  
UP AN EXCITING CAREER AS A  
**WANDERING MONSTER.**  
WANNA COME?

SURE THING.  
I'M ALL PACKED.  
LET'S GO!





WHAT THE HECK'S GOING ON AROUND HERE? THIS IS, WHAT, THE **THIRD** DUNGEON STRIPPED TO THE WALLS WE'VE COME ACROSS?

THE **FOURTH**. WHILE I'M GLAD TO SEE EVIL MONSTER-BADDIES MOVING AWAY, IT DOESN'T HELP OUR MONEY PROBLEMS.

IT LOOKS LIKE THEY EVEN TOOK THE **CORNERS**!

NOT TO MENTION THE **DOORS**. INTERESTING...

WHAT IS IT, ARTAG?

I JUST NOTICED: ALL OF THE **DOORS** WERE **YANKED** OUT OF THEIR **FRAMES**.

I'VE HEARD OF STRIPPING A DUNGEON **BARE**, BUT **THIS**...

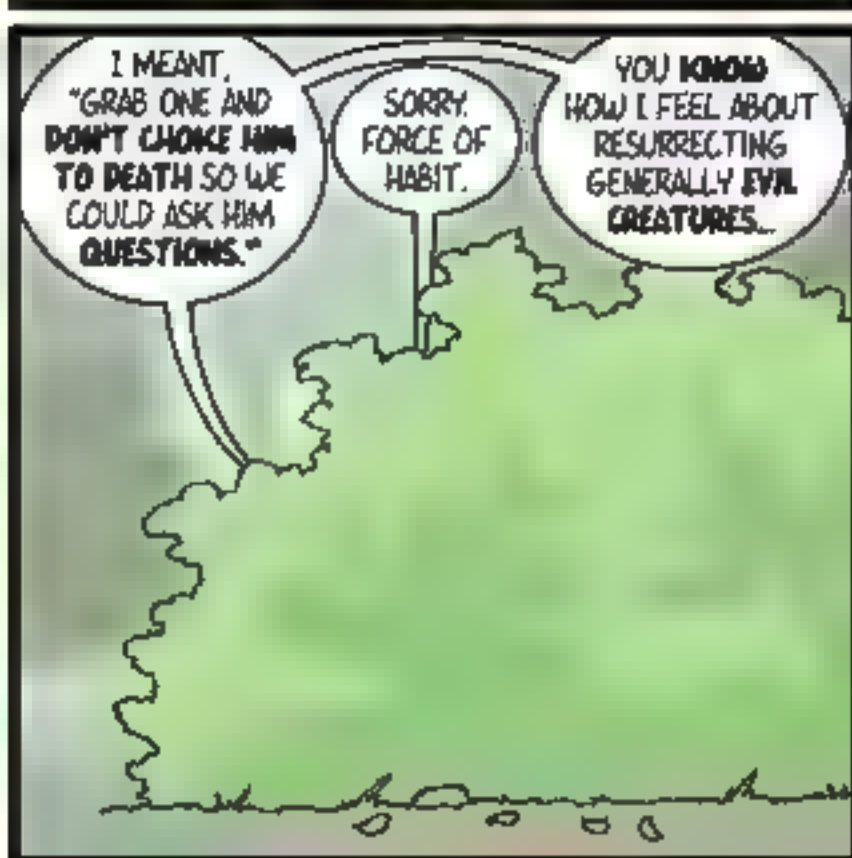
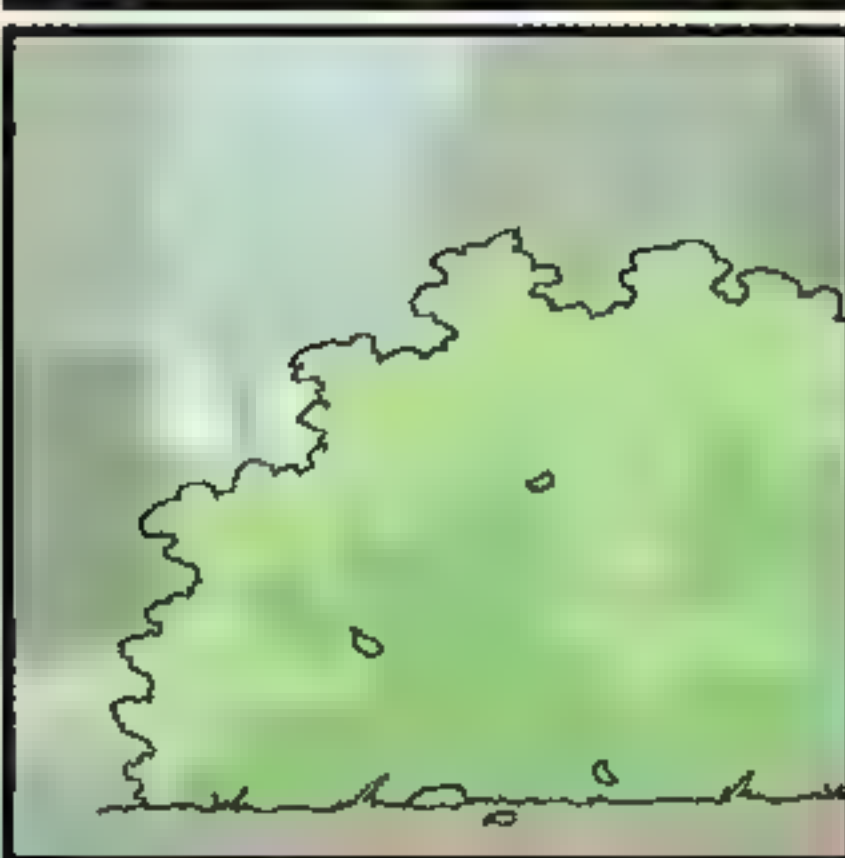
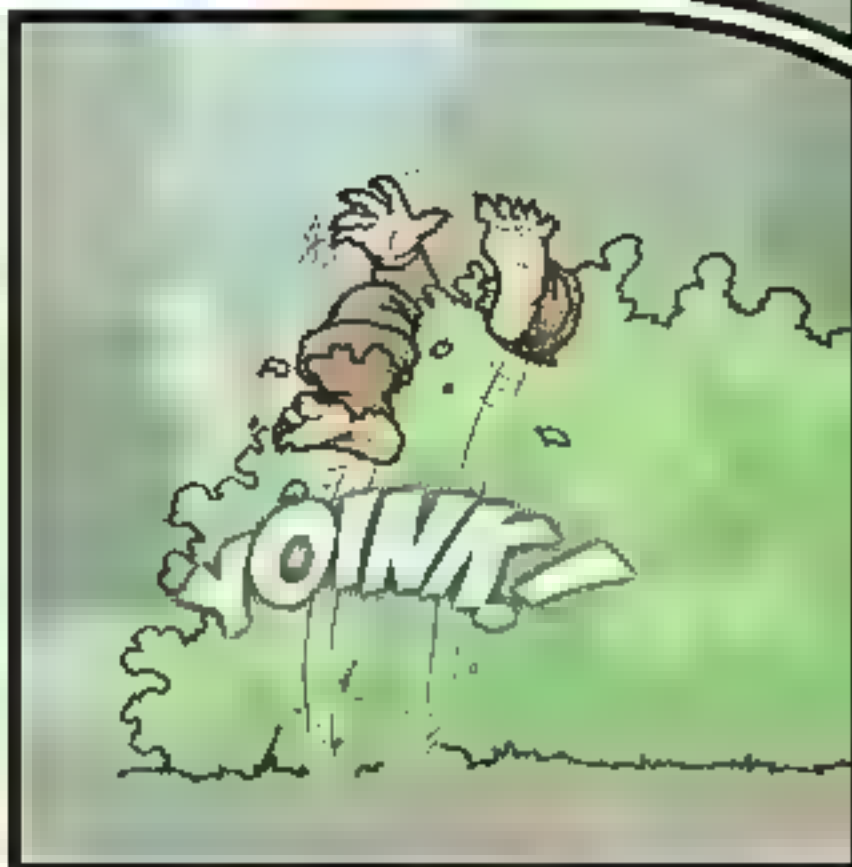
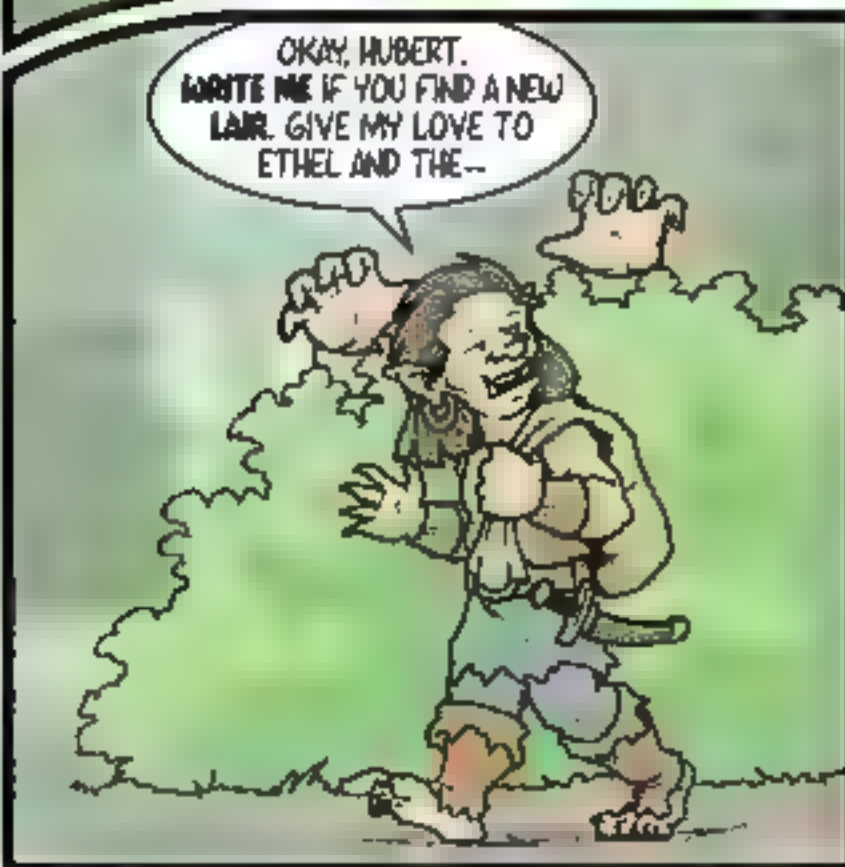
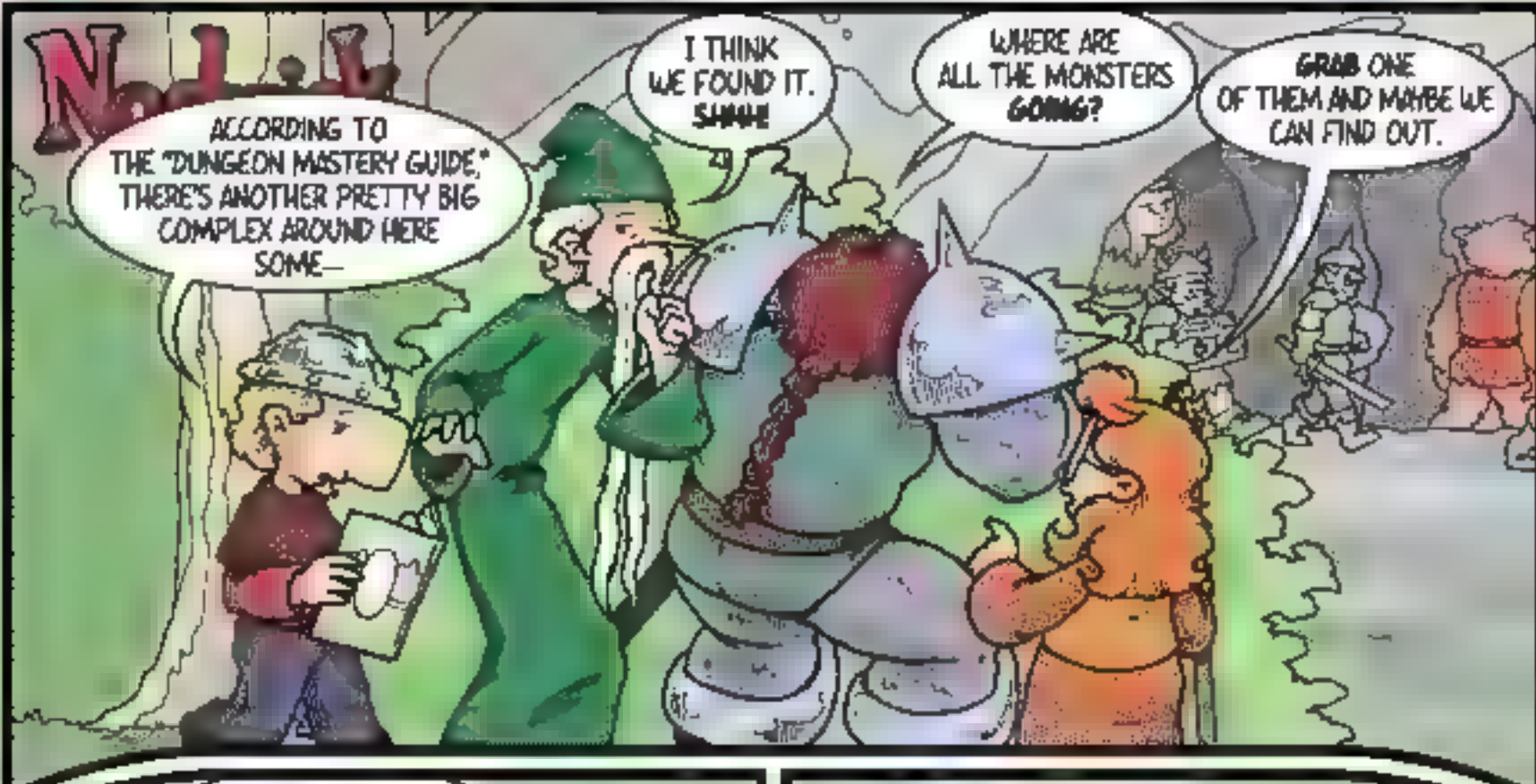
MAYBE SOMEONE SCREWED UP THEIR **OWN** HOME TOWN WORSE THAN WE DID.

YOU'D HAVE TO BE PRETTY **DESPERATE** TO HOCK **SECONDHAND** DUNGEON **DOORS**.

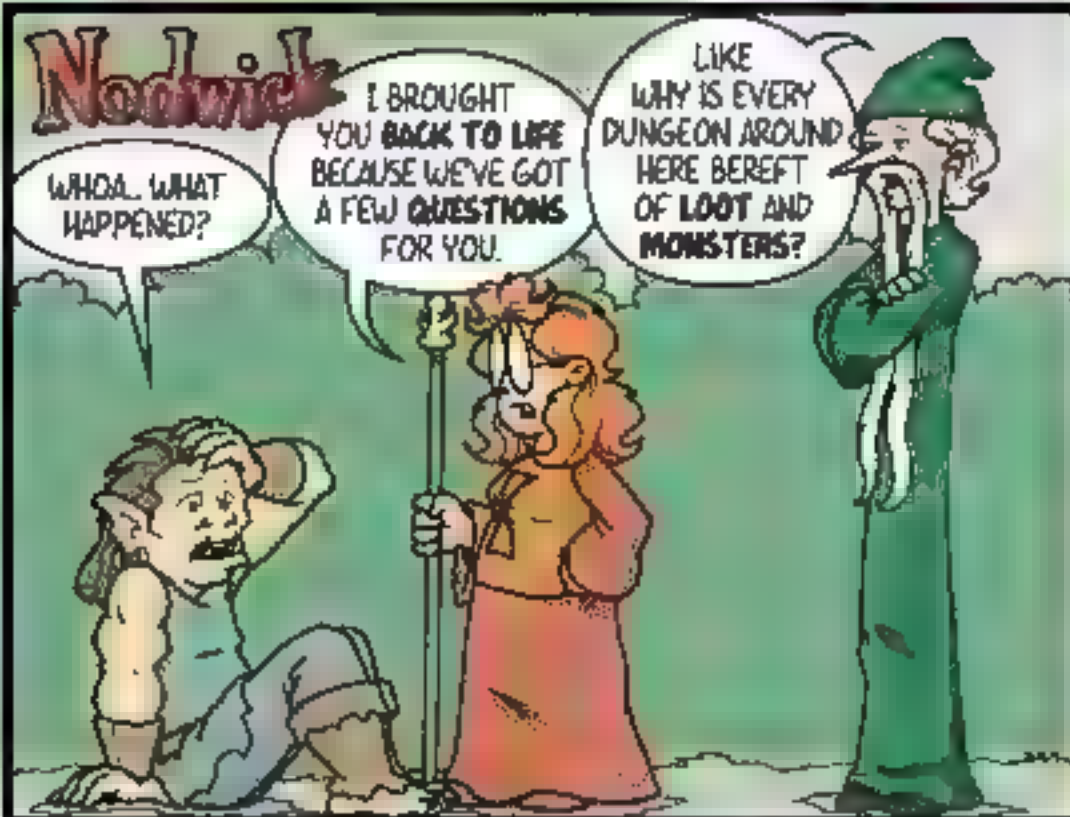
PERHAPS WE'RE DEALING WITH **SUPER-STRONG** DUNGEON **DELVERS** WITH **OBSSIVE-COMPULSIVE-LOOTING** **DISORDER**.

I HOPE THEY LEAVE **SOMETHING** AT THE NEXT PLACE FOR US. I HAVEN'T FOUGHT **NAUGHTINESS** IN **WEEKS** AND I'D LIKE TO BE ABLE TO GO HOME BEFORE **WINTER** STARTS...













YES, CAN I HELP--? OH, MORE ADVENTURERS. DID THE LORD OF KRUTZING HOLLOW SEND YOU, TOO?

HOW DID YOU KNOW WE WERE FROM--

AND WHAT IF HE DID?

Noah



WELL, I THOUGHT HE WOULD HAVE LEARNED HIS LESSON AFTER THE LAST BATCH OF YAHOOOS HE SENT. I MEAN, SURE, REANIMATING THE CORPSE OF HIS SISTER-IN-LAW WAS A MISTAKE, BUT IT WAS BROUGHT TO ME BY A CLIENT, SO I CAN'T BE HELD--

ER, WHAT "LAST BATCH" HE SENT?



OH, HE HIRED A RATHER INEPT BUNCH OF SELL-SWORDS AND WANNA-BE WIZARDS TO COME "TEACH ME A LESSON." AFTER THEY FAILED TO SURVIVE MY WARDS AND TRAPS, I, "IMPROVED" THEM AND SENT THEM BACK.

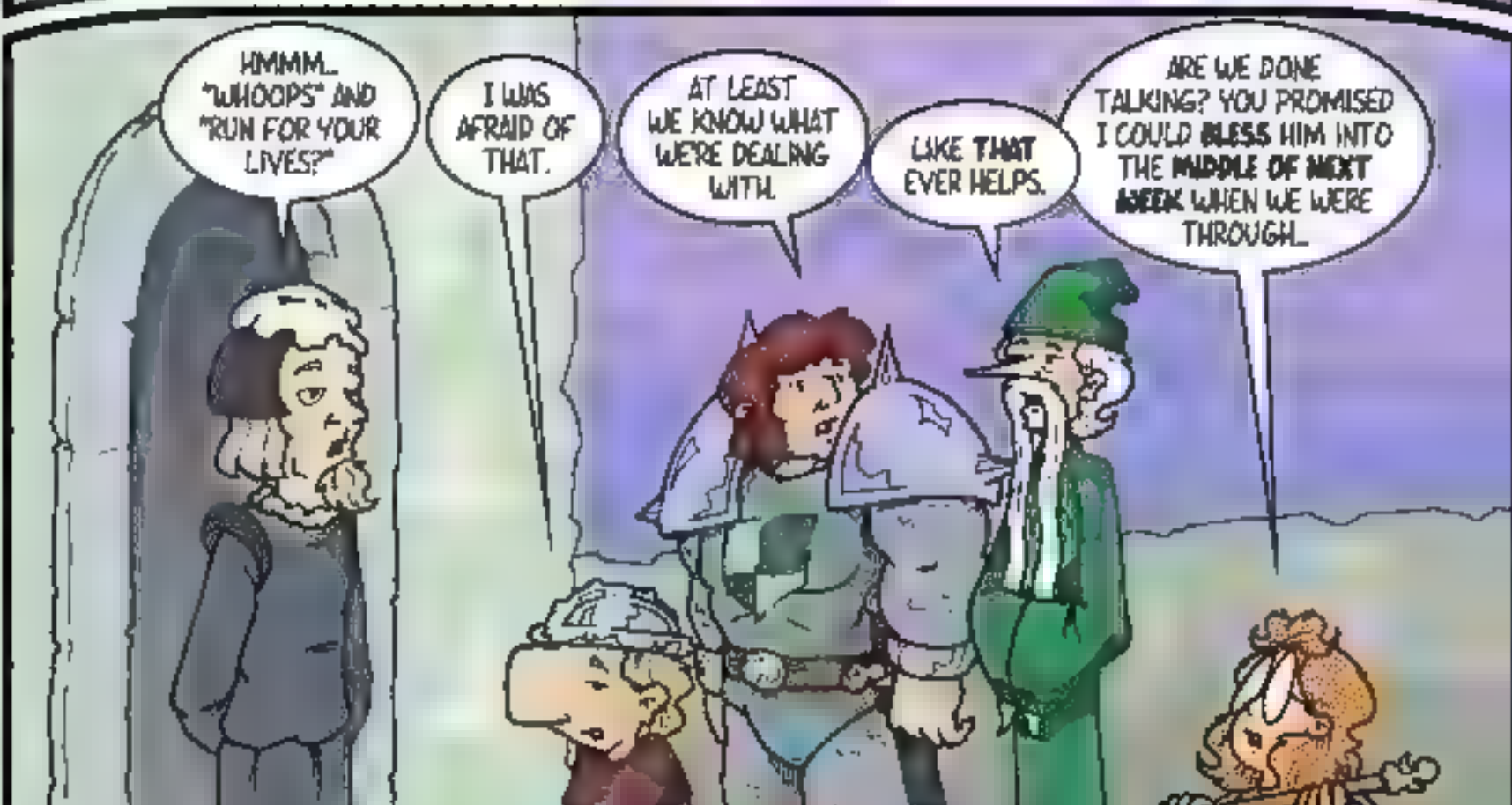
IMPROVED? HOW?



OH, IT WAS TRULY INSPIRED. I TURNED THEM INTO A VAMPIRIC NEGATIVE ENERGY FORCE THAT FEEDS ON THE CONTENTS OF DUNGEONS. IRONIC, NO?

ANYWAY AFTER SUCKING A DUNGEON OR TWO DRY, THEY WERE SUPPOSED TO GO PESTER KRUTZING HOLLOW BEFORE PETERING OUT.

WHAT WOULD YOU SAY IF WE'VE DISCOVERED THEY'VE CONSUMED OVER FIFTEEN DUNGEONS THAT WE KNOW OF?



HMMM... "WHOOPS" AND "RUN FOR YOUR LIVES?"

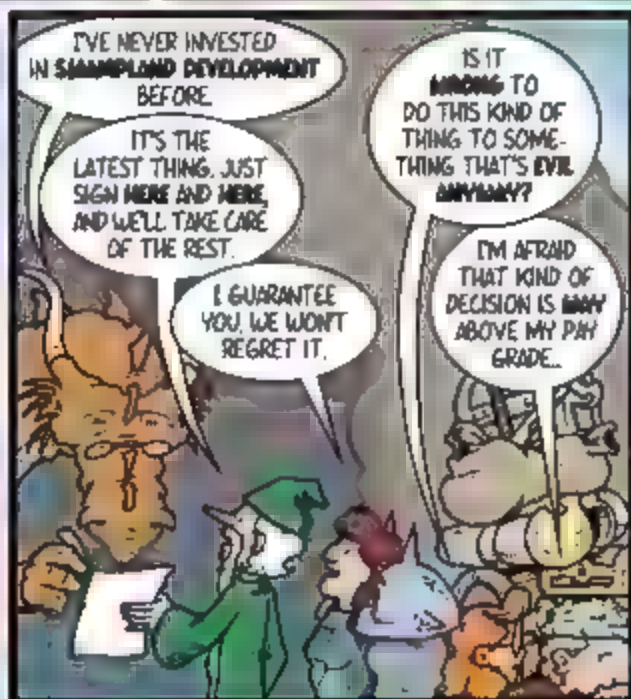
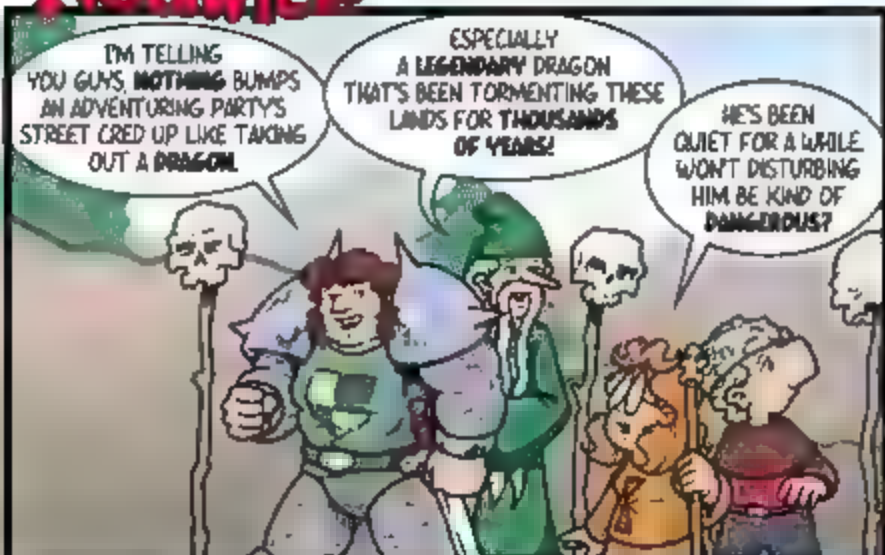
I WAS AFRAID OF THAT.

AT LEAST WE KNOW WHAT WE'RE DEALING WITH.

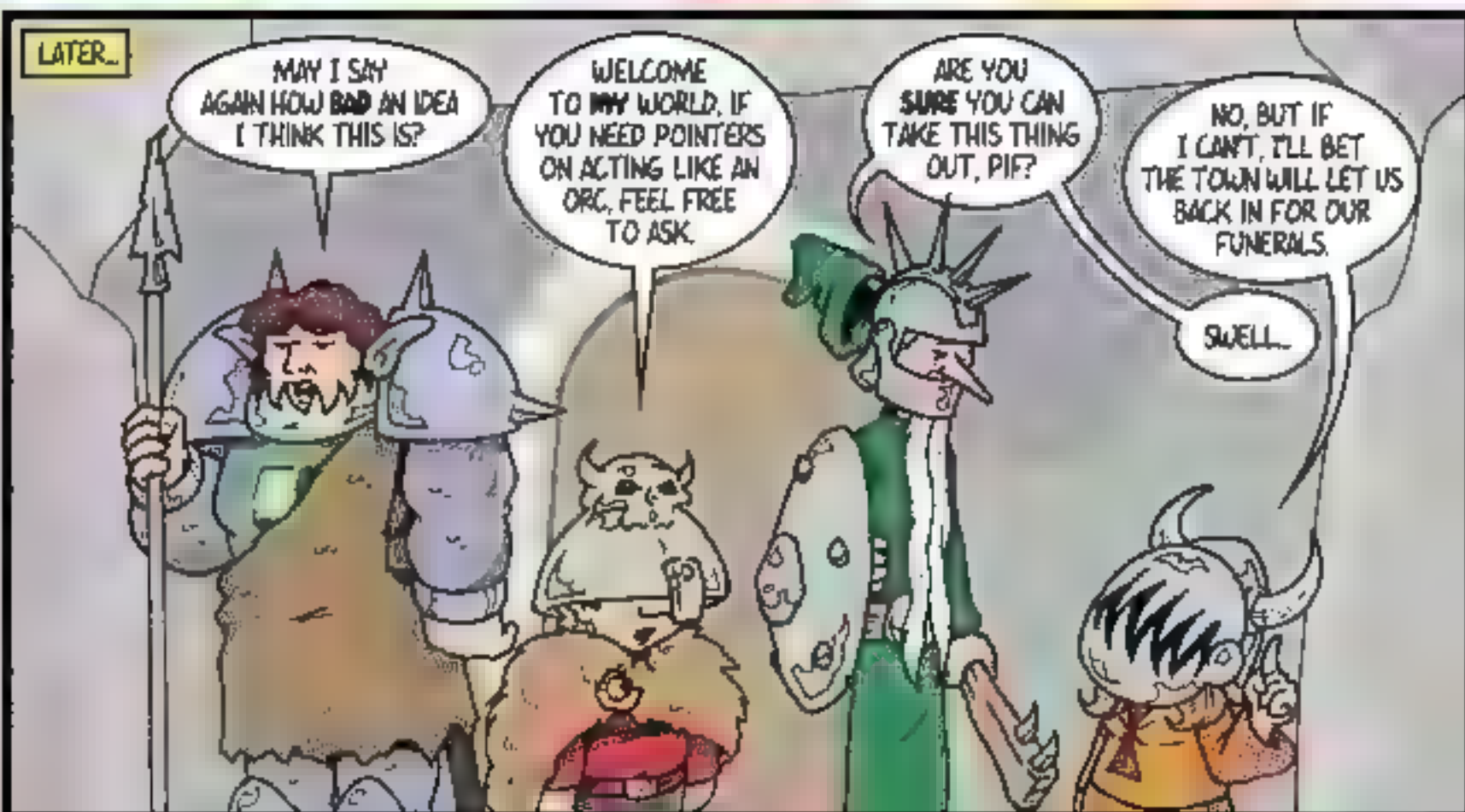
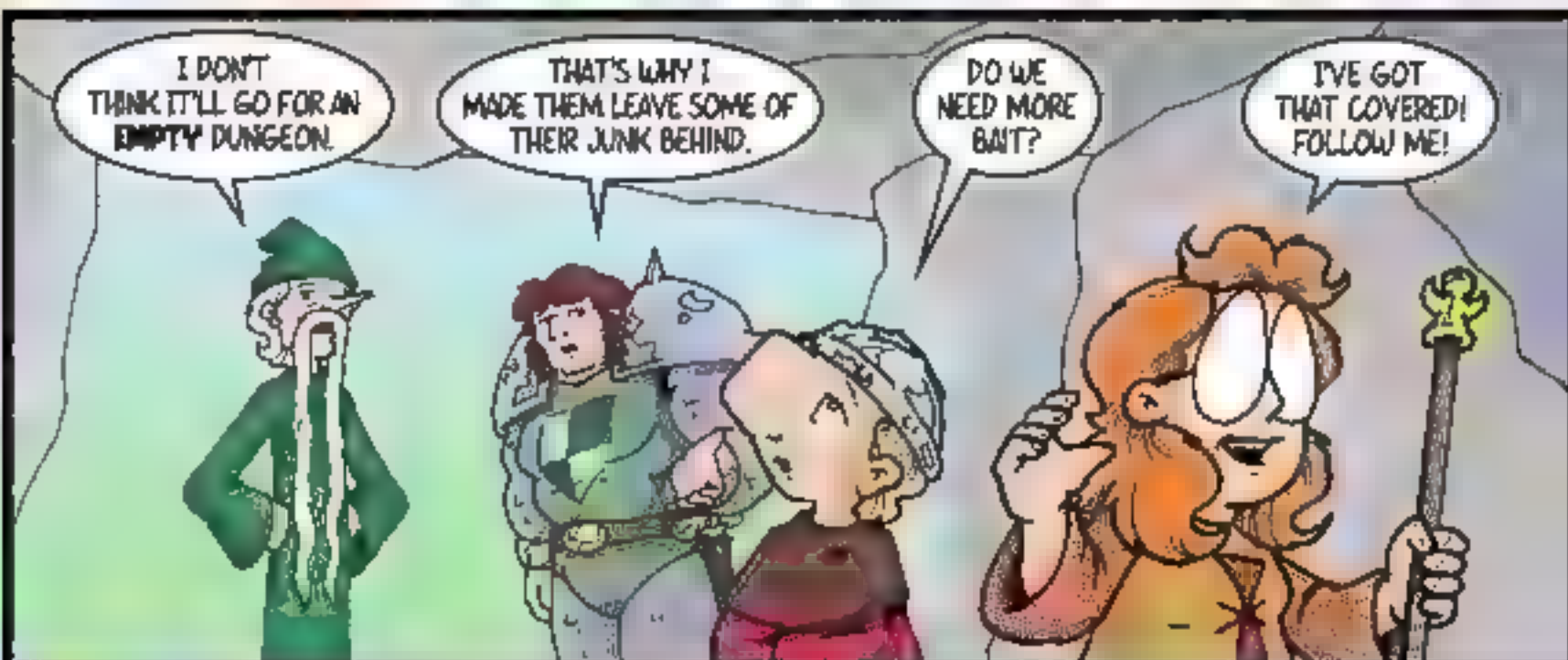
LIKE THAT EVER HELPS.

ARE WE DONE TALKING? YOU PROMISED I COULD BLESS HIM INTO THE MIDDLE OF NEXT WEEK WHEN WE WERE THROUGH.











THAT NIGHT...

# Nodwick

HEY YEAGAR,  
YOUR WATCH IS  
OVER.

ZZZ-SNORK!  
WHIA?

PIFFANY  
SENT ME TO  
RELIEVE YOU.  
SHE'S GOING TO  
TAKE OVER  
LOOKOUT IN A  
MINUTE.

IN A MINUTE?  
WHY'S THAT?

SHE HAD  
TO... "GO FRESHEN  
UP."

WHAT?

UM, SHE  
"WENT TO LOOK AT  
THE CROPS."

I DON'T FOLLOW.

SHE'S, UH...  
VISITING "THE  
LITTLE CLERIC'S  
ROOM."

HUH?

IF YOU TWO ARE DONE  
STRUGGLING WITH DESCRIBING PERFECTLY  
NATURAL BIOLOGICAL FUNCTIONS, CAN I HAVE  
SOME PEACE AND QUIET?

SOME OF US WILL  
PROBABLY HAVE TO CAST SPELLS IN THE  
MORNING, YOU KNOW.

I WAS JUST  
THINKING: EVERY TIME  
WE GO OUT TO EAT, AND  
SHE LEAVES THE TABLE, THE  
FOOD ARRIVES. WOULDN'T  
IT BE IRONIC IF WHILE SHE  
WERE GONE, WE GOT  
ATTACKED BY—



I'M BACK!  
TELL YEAGAR HE CAN  
WAKE UP AND GO TO  
SLEEP...

UH-OH.



# Nodwick

WHERE ARE WE?

I WOULD ASSUME WE'VE BEEN DEVoured BY THE "ADVENTURER GHOST CLOUD."

THAT WOULD EXPLAIN THE DECOR...

HI. WE'RE NEW HERE. WHAT CAN WE EXPECT?

OH. HEY. WELL, WE'RE ALL BEING SLOWLY CONSUMED, PRETTY MUCH.

CONSUMED?

THE CLOUD EATS STUFF. WE'RE IN ITS "STOMACH." WHEN IT NEEDS POWER, IT USES WHOEVER OR WHATEVER'S IN HERE. IT'S A "LAST IN, LAST DIGESTED" THING. LUCKY FOR YOU, HUH?

NOT REALLY. AND YOU'RE AWFULLY CALM ABOUT IT.

THANKS TO THE EFFECT YOU GUYS HAVE HAD ON ORCISH LIFE EXPECTANCIES, I WAS LIVING ON BORROWED TIME TEN YEARS AGO. GRANTED, THIS ISN'T HOW I EXPECTED TO GO...

IT'S A NEW ONE ON ME, TOO.

AT LEAST TIFFANY'S STILL OUT THERE, RIGHT?

I DON'T THINK DUCT TAPE CAN BRING YOU BACK TO LIFE AFTER BEING GHOST-CHOW...



# Nodwick

COME BACK WITH MY FRIENDS, YOU ICKY-STINK NO-GOOD CLOUD OF NAUGHTINESS!

YOU WOULD STAND AGAINST US?



YOU CAN TALK?

SHE'S A SHARP ONE.

WAS IT NOT THE LORD OF KRUTZING HOLLOW WHO SENT US TO OUR DOOM?

WHY WOULD YOU STAY OUR HAND?

HE MUST BE PUNISHED.



NOW HANG ON A MINUTE. HE DIDN'T MAKE YOU GO OUT AND BECOME ADVENTURERS. YOU CHOSE YOUR PROFESSIONS AND THE RISKS THAT CAME WITH IT!

I KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENED TO YOU IS KIND OF UNCOMFORTABLE, BUT I'M SURE, GIVEN THE PROPER RITUALS, I CAN GIVE YOUR SOULS THE REST THEY DESERVE.

BUT FIRST, COULD YOU LET GO OF MY FRIENDS? PLEASE?



NO. I THINK THEY CHOSE A PROFESSION AND THE RISKS THAT CAME WITH IT. SORRY, LADY.

BESIDES, THE SAME GOES FOR THE LORD WHO SENT US OUT HERE. HIS ACTIONS DESERVE CONSEQUENCES, DON'T YOU THINK?

DON'T HATE THE PLAYA, HATE THE GAME.

BUT, UM...



YOU EMBARRASS ME WHEN YOU TALK LIKE THAT.

DON'T BE HATING, HONEY.

SIGH... UNDEAD ARE SO MUCH EASIER TO DEAL WITH WHEN THEY HAVE BRAINS THAT HAVE ROTTED A LITTLE!







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